

PREFACE TO VOLUME EIGHT.

WE have this time to present to our readers a volume more complete in itself and unique in character than will easily be found among its predecessors. We give them, in fact, the whole story of Europe's latest war—the French and Austrian war in Italy—from the menace of New Year's Day to the last shot on the plains of Lombardy. In these pages may be traced the whole story,—the growing agitation of the earlier months,—the gathering of the troops,—the ferment of the Italian towns,—the march of the mighty armaments,—the campaign,—the battles. What events have been compressed into this brief half-year! Three months to prepare and three months to act;—and the curtain falls on a new state of things in Southern Europe. The greatest military Powers of the world have met in a deadly struggle, and already the world is again at peace. Provinces where the German has reigned for generations change hands; Italy receives a new organisation, the Pope a new political dignity; and the Emperor of the French returns to Paris while the summer is still young. Whether we contemplate the story of the past six months as a drama by itself, or study it for its importance in determining the world's future, we are equally interested. Our present volume is a storehouse in its way of matter for reflection, and seldom have pen or pencil been engaged in a more responsible task.

It is now clear, as no one who turns over these pages can doubt, that Europe is more exposed to war, and that war can be more conveniently carried on, than people have been in the habit of believing lately. Railways and telegraphs—science and steam—have facilitated vast movements of troops; and, while they have made war possible on a greater scale than before, have also made it more terrible. The world has not often heard more sanguinary stories than may be found here; and of the worst features of the campaign we suspect it has but a dim conception. Against this there is the set-off that war is shorter, now, than it ever used to be; and that Emperors are forced by the immensity of the expenditure and the pressure of opinion to acquiesce as soon as possible in reasonable gains. A good sign of the recent struggle has been our escape—at all events for the present—from such a widening of the area and a deepening of the danger of the war as there was too much reason to apprehend at first.

On the whole, this is a War Volume. Troops and tents—cannon and colours—defile through our broad leaves. If we have a glimpse of those Southern lands—the thought of which makes up the poetry of the map of Europe—it is as the scene of soldierly triumph. Zouaves glitter among their mediæval streets, and camp-fires are smoking on their rich plains. Verona rises before the vision as a fortification, and not as the birthplace of Catullus or the grave of Juliet.

Whether we have done entire justice to events so striking and places so interesting as those dealt with in this volume must be left to the reader to decide. Meanwhile the pencil plied by our artist in Italy has not been neglectful of the more tranquil region of home. The gems of our Exhibitions, the scenes of domestic life and social history, have been taken in their turn. Portraits of contemporary worthies are hung up here and there in our gallery according to precedent and custom; and, generally, we have attempted, as usual, not only to gratify public curiosity, but to anticipate it.

While watching the war with interest, we have been resolute in repressing temptation to draw our own country into the struggle. The neutrality on which our best statesmen have been agreed throughout has been faithfully urged in these pages. We have advocated preparations, but only defensive ones. And, aiming at a general audience among our countrymen, we have continued to advocate the moderate and independent principles which we believe to be, at bottom, the most truly *popular* ones, and which certainly are the most compatible with the liberality and refinement that ought to be expected from a Journal not devoted to Politics merely, but to Literature, Social Discussions and Art.

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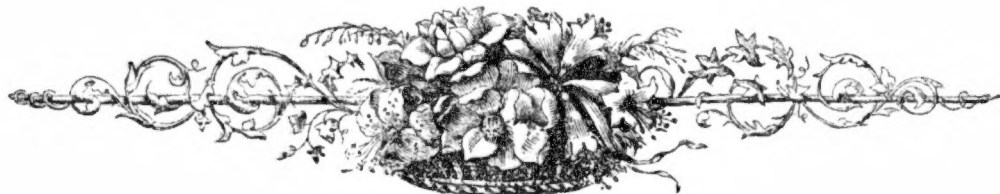
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PROSPECTS OF THE NEW YEAR.

THE present seems to be a natural occasion on which to survey the political world, with a special eye to the coming twelve-month, and the principles that should guide us in its probable controversies. Just at this moment little is stirring, at home or abroad, but there is plenty of interesting matter to come. We give (on principle) the preference to things domestic, and among these the Reform question takes the first place. By the way, it is a curious proof how wrong the utilitarians are in arguing as if mankind thought most of their material interests—that a point of abstract government, of politics proper, will always beat common social questions out of the field.

We are very anxious that if possible the Reform question should produce some practical result in the way of a measure this year. It will not be creditable to the country to have it stand off from time to time—interfering with social reforms—provoking angry feeling—and benefiting only those who find it a handy political signboard to trade under. If it is wanted, why not have it done out of hand? All the facts are known; there is the experience of the last change to argue from—not a long experience, indeed, but still very instructive. Every party is pledged to something of the kind, and the country has come to look on it as irresistible. We do trust, then, that the public may, once and for all, take the matter up, and come to look on it as the chief, and proper, and indispensable business of the approaching session.

Assuming such to be our duty, let us try and see what we ought to decide on as the basis of a measure sufficiently comprehensive to settle the constitution for at least this generation. We take the constitution, of course, with all its antecedents and conditions, as the groundwork; for, if anything be clear from the recent agitation, it is, that nobody of any importance ventures to say that it should be abrogated wholesale. It may be improved as a house may be improved, however. And there are three ways of doing this: 1st, by adding; 2ndly, by taking away; 3rdly, by altering. Suppose we look at these in their natural order?

With regard to the first question, nobody, we think, wishes

the number of members of the House of Commons added to. The addition proposed, generally, is to the number of electors; and here we are met on the threshold with the inquiry (much broached of late), whether "numbers" are the real standard to be considered? In truth this is a metaphysical question, and really involves the rights of man, of which our grandfathers heard so much. In England, however, we have usually been content to ask what the rights of Englishmen are, which is a practical question, to be settled by English tradition. Now, in answer to it, we have simply to say, that England has always looked on her people as represented in aggregates, that is, in batches, or in interests. And this does not apply to Parliamentary representation only, but to every other part of the constitution. A parish government, for instance, is an organisation not representing the inhabitants as individuals but as a whole. The right of A or B to have influence in it is not derived from his mere birth within certain limits, but from his position there. The law assumes, of course, that the minority who have position, do faithfully represent the whole body. And so with Parliament. Our ancestors assumed that in the case of a borough where the mayor and burgesses elected the member—these functionaries virtually represented the whole population, knew the real interest of the borough as a whole, and were honest enough to choose for it. This system was a tradition as old as anything we know of England, and sprang from the fact that the country was settled in colonies or knots (so to speak)—in little centres of life which the State viewed as wholes. The State's business was with the wholes—not with the units composing them; with Berkshire or Hampshire, not with the isolated persons living there. Accordingly, no such question as this of numbers *versus* property could arise. Nor did any innovation on such *speculative* grounds take place at the Reform Bill. Towns were summoned because they had risen to be important. Voters were added from the ranks of those who had attained in modern times a position similar to that which had given a right to vote in ancient ones. Boroughs were abolished for having ceased to be of any consequence. It was a *political* measure caused by *social* changes; and unless we break off from

our past altogether, such should future political measures be. That is to say, we must add to the Constitution on the existing foundations—taking in new voters with an eye to the principle on which we have taken in the present ones. But to do this, some condition of property and residence is indispensable. Mr. Bright would adopt the parochial suffrage, a system which clearly recognises such conditions. Till his measure is forthcoming, the effect of this plan cannot be duly seen; but it has the advantage of being connected with an already existing organisation. It recognises existing things, and is far better than the plan of "electoral districts," which would make mere numbers predominant; thereby destroying the local associations which have helped to educate people and conserve national character. No Englishman would care to vote as "P. 22," or by some mathematical arrangement which would make him one of a "district," connecting him with two or three bits of different parishes and with fellow-voters only related to him arithmetically. It is probable, after all, the mode of adding electors will be the simple one of taking in a lower standard of householders.

When it comes to the point of improving the Constitution by taking away, our task is simpler. Here we have only to urge the abolition of "pocket boroughs"—those notoriously commanded by private interests amply represented elsewhere.

Here follows our third division—improvement by alteration—by which we mean a process following from the first two, and yet worth looking at by itself, for convenience' sake. Thus, what shall we do with disfranchised boroughs and their members—powers not extinguished in the Constitution—but seeking new places in it? In this matter we must still be guided by local considerations. In the case of what may be called an agricultural borough, the county should be opened to the voters; and the member transferred to some important and imperfectly-represented territory or town. And the great object should be to discover some *interest* in want of fair play: a matter in which population alone will not assist one. A place devoted to a manufacture may get virtually as well represented through ten thousand electors as fifteen—for it is the manufacture



SCENE FROM BALFE'S NEW OPERA OF "SATANELLA."

which gives it national importance and the non-voting five thousand are in "the same boat" with the voting ten. But there are important interests (as in the case of universities) where there are no great numbers to command attention, and yet where the character of the work done is of great consequence. We still hope that some feasible scheme may be found for representing the intellectual, the scientific, or literary element, more effectually than is now done. But we confess we are not sanguine about it.

We have confined ourselves entirely to the principles of reform, and yet have left ourselves but little room to deal with the "foreign" side of New-year political prospects. These at present are tranquil enough; and none can be more anxious than ourselves that we should do as little as possible to make them otherwise. With Montalembert's moral and legal triumph has ended what once seemed to be a state of things dangerous to the Anglo-French alliance. We trust that the Emperor will incur no such risk again; and so long as he is moderate in his exercise of power and faithful to this country, he will never be exposed to any British criticism which need offend a sensible man. Indeed, it is no part of our duty towards Europe to preach a political propaganda, and all we have to do is to maintain our own rights unimpaired. There is a difficulty in the wind with America—the result of that "filibustering" which employs the energies of the vagabond part of her population. But of late some of her best statesmen have seen the necessity of checking this tendency—which is assuredly their own cause, for one kind of license breeds another; and things may come to a pass where all government will be impossible. We may hope, therefore, that the "difficulty" will once more blow over; all that Britain requires is, a secure transit through the isthmus, and the States (however much some of their orators swagger) are not likely to risk a war to deprive us of that.

On the whole, we think the foreign prospects of 1859 pacific, though there is nothing whatever to justify us in urging the least reduction of our naval or military forces—a measure which would be crime and idocy together. There are wiseacres who tell us that we should disband our forces rather than have "aristocrats" holding commissions in them: but (with submission) that mighty evil is not quite so grievous as would be the harrying of our counties by envious and malignant foreign troops.

SCENE FROM "SATANELLA."

Is it not a strange thing that every piece in which our black friend from below is introduced is sure to be a success? Certain dramatic authors that we could mention will, perhaps, suffer for it some day, when their term of years has expired; for really it seems to be an understood thing, that, good or bad, every play, farce, burlesque, ballet, opera, or tragedy, in which the unmentionable one, or any of his relations or satellites, is introduced, enjoys an almost unlimited run. We ourselves, after experimenting with a farce that wasn't laughed at, and a tragedy that was, once wrote half a piece in which a well-known demoniac personage figured, and it had a career of a hundred nights! The great success of "Faust" may be attributed, in more senses than one, to "Mephistopheles;" and who shall say how much Meyerbeer owes to the man in the cloak who tempts Robert? We believe even the "Duchess Eleanor" of sad memory, would have been a hit if the scene could have been laid on the banks of the Styx, and the heroine, instead of Eleanor, had been called Proserpine. It is a lucky thing for Messrs. Harris and Falconer that they entitled their libretto "Satanella," or even the fact of its being derived from "Le Diable Amoureux" would not have saved it. As it is—and thanks, moreover, to Mr. Balfe's clever music and Miss Pyne's perfect singing—"Satanella" will tempt the public to the Royal English Opera for weeks, perhaps months, to come. We have already told our readers the plot of the piece, which, taken by itself, is ingenious enough. It may be remembered that in the second act Leila (Miss Rebecca Isaacs), who is to Rupert (Mr. Harrison) what Alice is to Robert in Meyerbeer's grand diabolic work, is carried off by pirates. In the third act we find her in Tunis, where she is offered for sale in the slave market. Her lover endeavours to buy her; but an avarous and wealthy pacha, vizier, or other oriental magnate, outbids him. Leila has just been knocked down to her Eastern admirer, when suddenly Satanella arrives, hot from her habitual abode. She is in a charming humour, and feels capable of tempting a whole legion of Saint Antonies, though of course in Tunis there are no Saint Antonies at all. As for the purchaser of Leila, he no sooner sees Satanella than he loves her; no sooner hears her sing, than he resolves to do anything and everything that will enable him to "call her his own" (as they say in the lyrics). Miss Pyne indeed sings the pretty air, "Sultana Zulema," in the most enchanting manner; nor must we forget the admirable acting of Mr. W. Payne (the distinguished Oriental just alluded to) who does not utter a word throughout the opera, but who in this one short scene proves himself a great artist by his thorough command of gesture and physiognomic expression. The principal personage in the scene, and indeed in the opera, is Rupert. Mr. W. H. Harrison contributes much to the success of "Satanella" by his singing of the ballads, with which Mr. Balfe knows so well how to suit him, and which are always applauded loudly, and severally encored; but it is not as a singer only that he pleases the public. He is also a most successful actor, and his performance in the scene which our artist has represented will be specially remarked. We must observe (as many of our readers will do themselves) that the tenor of the Royal English Opera is somewhat less like a Zouave than the figure occupying the principal place in our engraving. But as a whole the scene is admirably rendered, and the attitudes and grouping of the artist might well be studied by the persons he depicts on the stage.

A BRAVE SAILOR.—The Dutch merchantman, *Cassandra*, was wrecked near the port of Hakodadi, in Japan. One life was lost, that of a brave Norwegian sailor, who endeavoured to rescue a lady who was on board. To save her, he slung himself under a hawser which they had succeeded in securing from the ship to the rocks, and received the lady upon his knees. Then they both, holding on to the hawser, worked themselves toward the rocks, he lifting their double weight, and she sliding the bowline in which they sat a few inches shoreward with each successive lift. Of course man's strength could not bear up against this exertion long; it was simply a question of time, and if that time was long enough they would succeed, if too short they must fail, and to fail seemed certain death. When half the distance had been accomplished the failure came. A heavy sea struck the vessel, just as the lady was rushing along the slack bowline she lost her hold and fell backward; at the same time the sailor, unexpectedly relieved of her weight, fell in the opposite direction, and they were both covered by the breaking sea. Several pieces of bamboo were thrown from the ship, and as the lady rose, supported by her clothes, she grasped one of them, and was subsequently rescued by three other sailors, who sprang overboard and swam to her assistance. The poor Norwegian, however, never came to the surface—he was, doubtless, too exhausted to make the exertion. The next morning his body was drifted on the beach, and upon examination his cold brave hands were found torn and mutilated; he had held bravely on to the last.

AN IRATE GENERAL.—A curious anecdote is published by a Belgian paper. It relates that, a few evenings ago, at the Cercle Imperial, an extraordinary scene took place in the card-room. A general was playing ecarté, and losing his money and his temper, when some one standing behind him uttered some uncomplimentary observations regarding his manner of playing. He turned abruptly round, and seeing a captain among the bystanders behind his chair, exclaimed, "Mr. —, you are under arrest for a week!" "But, general," retorted the officer, "it was not I who spoke." "You reply, do you? Very well—you are under arrest for a fortnight!" Great indignation at this freak of the general's was felt by all those present, who convened a meeting of the club for the following day, when the name of General — was struck off the list of members.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE

The French journals unanimously condemn the President's Message; and, according to the "Times," the Court of the Tuilleries has within the last two or three days caused Lord Derby's Government to be officially informed that in case England should think fit to take any measures to counteract the American policy indicated in certain passages of Mr. Buchanan's speech, she may rely upon the support of France "to the utmost extent."

The country seems to be quite prepared for warfare. The entire army contingent for the year is ordered out, according to the "Independence Belge," which says, "the Christmas holidays will, perhaps, be somewhat saddened in the country villages and in the factories by the departure of 100,000 recruits to join their regiments." An army of 50,000 men near the Italian frontier is spoken of. The Grand Duke Constantine left Marseilles for Toulon and the Spanish ports on Thursday week.

SPAIN.

The Message of the American President has created some sensation in Spain. The "Espana," however, expresses the opinion that his proposition to purchase Cuba ought not to be regarded seriously, inasmuch as it is probably only made to catch popular applause, and to obtain re-election.

AUSTRIA.

It is said, in despatches from Vienna of the 23rd ult., that the Austrian Government has officially announced a mitigation of the new and exceedingly rigorous law of conscription, particularly of that part of it which includes only sons, hitherto exempt from the obligations of military service.

PRUSSIA.

The Queen of Prussia recently wrote a letter to M. de Manteuffel, full of encomiums. In the name of her royal husband, she expresses the deepest regret that in consequence of his Majesty's illness, Prussia is now deprived of the enlightened councils of the late prime minister; "in fact the pang upon M. de Manteuffel is so strong that his partisans look upon it as a protest against the order of things established by the regency." The Queen's letter coincides remarkably with a report of a great improvement in the state of the King's health, both morally and physically. A bulletin signed by the physicians who accompanied the King to Italy is handed about at Potsdam, wherein it is stated that the august patient has not only recovered the use of his speech, but that the day is probably not far off on which he will be able to re-assume the reins of power. All which is regarded as more intrigue.

RUSSIA.

A LETTER from St. Petersburg of the 10th says:—"As was to be expected, the Ministry has rejected, as contrary to the interests of the State, the proposition of the central committee on the emancipation of the serfs, to the effect that the nobles themselves shall be left to take the initiative of carrying out the emancipation. It is said that the proposition was made with the view of obtaining for the nobles a sort of parliamentary representation, and to compensate, by the acquisition of new privileges, for the authority which they will lose by emancipation." The same letter says: "The Council of the Empire is at this moment occupied with the re-organisation of justice to Poland."

The health of the Empress-Dowager is said to be improving.

ITALY.

The news from Italy is rather warlike. The Neapolitan Government, we hear, has ordered an additional levy of eighteen thousand men, and there is great activity in the arsenals. The Emperor of Austria has ordered the formation of a squadron for the Mediterranean and one for the Adriatic. The Mediterranean squadron will be composed of the steam-frigate *Danube*, the screw corvette *Dandolo*, the corvettes *Diana* and *Leipzig*, and the *Triton* brig. Duke Nicholas of Wurtemberg will command one of the corvettes. The Adriatic squadron will consist of a division of small vessels.

The University of Pavia has been closed by order of the Austrian authorities. This is, of course, in consequence of the disaffected spirit prevailing there.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

The Ministerial crisis at Constantinople appears to have been caused by the refusal of the Grand Vizier to assume the responsibility of carrying out the reforms promised by Fud Pacha, while in Paris. Ilhami Pacha and Mahmud Pacha, sons-in-law of the Sultan, and Ethem Pacha, formerly Minister for Foreign Affairs, again form part of the Great Council.

The telegraphic wire between Bagdad and Constantinople is laid down.

AMERICA.

AMERICA is considerably excited about another aggression of the Britishers. The *Washington* attempted to open the Nicaraguan route. On her arrival at San Juan, she was boarded first by a boat from a U. S. frigate, and afterwards by armed boats from the British ships of war *Valorous* and *Leopard*, on the supposition that she carried a party of filibusters. The British officers asserted their right of search by reason of the British protectorate over Mosquito, and, at the request of Nicaragua, over the coasts of the republic. Sir W. Gore Ouseley, her Majesty's representative in Central America, was on board the *Valorous* at the time of the visit to the American steamer. But what we term a visit is denounced as an "outrage" by our blustering cousins; and in the House of Representatives Mr. Clay offered a resolution, which was adopted, calling upon the President for information relating to it. However, we learn by subsequent intelligence, that "the explanations of the British officers are quite satisfactory to the United States Government."

The Nicaraguan filibusters have their rendezvous in the Florida Keys. A schooner has escaped from Mobile with a number of filibusters; the revenue-cutter sent in pursuit of her got aground, whether purposely or not the accounts do not say.

It was said at Washington that Lord Napier would not leave his post until the arrival of his successor, Lord Lyons, which was not expected for two months.

The Federal Judges of Columbia, South Carolina, have decided that the law under which the crew of the slave brig *Echo* were detained is constitutional.

INDIA AND CHINA.

The Calcutta mail brings us no news of importance from India, but it confirms all that we had previously heard about the satisfactory effect of the Queen's proclamation. Addresses to her Majesty were being prepared in several places.

The news from China is equally unimportant. Lord Elgin had concluded his negotiations at Shanghai, and had gone on a trip up the Yangtze-kiang. At Canton trade continued to improve.

M. MONTALEMBERT.

The "Moniteur" announces that the Emperor relieves M. de Montalembert from the penalties pronounced against him on the 21st of December by the Imperial Court.

The editor of the "Correspondant" is also pardoned.

LOSS BY FIRE OF THE BRITISH SHIP MERCO.—This fine ship is supposed to have been entirely destroyed by fire, near the Cape Verde Islands, while on her homeward voyage from Calcutta for London with a valuable cargo. She left Calcutta for London on the 26th of August, and touched at St. Helena on the 9th of November, and resumed her voyage on the following day. On the night of the 29th ult., a large ship was seen on fire in the track which the *Merco* would be in for England, and from the circumstance of the stern, partly burnt, bearing the letters "—ERCO—LIVERP—" there is little doubt that she was the unfortunate vessel.

REVOLUTION IN SERBIA.

DISTURBANCES have broken out in Serbia, and have led to the deposition of Prince Alexander. The accounts state that on the 22nd the National Assembly (Skupstchina) sent a message to the Prince, insisting on his resignation. The Prince, promising an answer for the next day, withdrew for his personal safety to a Turkish fortress. In consequence, the Assembly pronounced him to be deposed, on the ground that by so acting he had left the country without a government, and that he must be looked on as a fugitive at law. The Assembly then established a provisional government, proclaimed Prince Milosch head, and made to the people a formal announcement of what it had done. The Senate at first opposed this movement on the part of the Assembly, but afterwards gave in its adhesion to it.

Austria seems to have taken a threatening attitude in this matter. First, a Vienna journal, speaking officially, condemned the movement at Belgrade in strong language, and announced that the Austrian Government is about to take military measures of a precautionary nature. Next, we have a telegram which states that two regiments have actually been despatched for Semlin, a frontier town belonging to Austria certainly, but within two hours' march of Belgrade. The Turkish troops in Serbia were under arms.

Prince Milosch Obrenovitch is the same that was dethroned in 1839; he was originally a headman. It is difficult to foresee the end of this complication. The Servians are a warlike people, proud of their independence. The armed force is represented by a small number of soldiers; but all the male population are accustomed to take up arms on great occasions. Since the treaty of Passarowitz the territory has belonged, with constant disputes, partly to Turkey and partly to Austria. In 1739, at the peace of Belgrade, it was ceded to the Porte. Czeni George in 1801 threw off the yoke of the Turks, and was recognised Prince of Serbia in 1809; but the treaty of Bucharest, in 1812, restored the Porte all its rights over Serbia. In 1814 a new revolt occurred under the leadership of Milosch Obrenovitch, whose party, still popular in Serbia, is represented by the new vice-president of the present National Assembly. The Porte vainly endeavoured to put down this revolt. It was not, however, until 1829 that by the treaty of Adrianople the complete independence of Serbia was declared on condition of a tribute to the Porte. Milosch remained at the head of affairs for ten years, and was then set aside, after a popular commotion.

THE AMERICANS IN NICARAGUA.

An attempt to open the Nicaragua transit-route has proved a melancholy failure. Two ships, the *Washington* and the *Hermann*, were employed in this enterprise. The *Washington* went to bring the passengers from New York to San Juan or Greytown; they were then to ascend the river in a small steamer, and embark on board the *Hermann* at San Juan del Sur, on the Pacific coast. The misfortunes of the expedition commenced as soon as the *Washington* entered the harbour of San Juan. First, she was boarded by an officer of the *Janestown*, to know whether she had not filibusters on board. Not long after a boat from the *Valorous*, and another from the *Leopard*, British frigates, boarded her, and similar inquiries were made. However, nothing suspicious appeared, and the *Washington* was left alone. The same afternoon the river steamer *Catherine Maria* started up the San Juan to discover if the *Hermann* were actually waiting on the opposite side of the isthmus. About seven miles above the mouth, the *Catherine Maria* grounded on a sandbank, and the consequence was a return to Greytown. An attempt was then made to ascend the Colorado branch, which flows into the sea some miles south of the harbour. The boats ascended to a certain point, and then the crews embarked in a little steamer, and gained the Nicaragua Lake. After much difficulty permission was gained to cross the lake, but only on condition that 15 Nicaraguan soldiers should be taken on board. The captain, anxious to gain tidings of the *Hermann*, submitted, and the steamer made for Granada city, on the western shore of the lake. The Americans found that their character was suspected, and that the authorities, making sure they were filibusters, had prepared for them a warm reception in the shape of a 21-pounder. Nothing was to be heard of the *Hermann*, and, as the Nicaraguans seemed determined to prevent an American company establishing a transit through their country with armed vessels, the boats returned, and the enterprise was given up.

The *Washington* had orders to remain at Greytown for a certain time, and then, in case nothing should be heard of the *Hermann*, to proceed to Aspinwall. To Aspinwall, accordingly, the passengers were taken, but on arriving there they were met by a proclamation of the Governor. It was known that the *Hermann* was not on the Pacific side to meet them, and the Governor strongly objected to having 300 destitute persons thrown on his shores without the means of reaching their destination. Here was a dead lock. Those passengers who could afford to pay full fare to San Francisco from Aspinwall would be taken by the regular line; but only a small number of those on board had the means. A meeting was called, and great excitement prevailed, but nothing could be done, till the agent of the Pacific Steamship Company agreed to reduce the fares as an act of benevolence. At the regular rates,—125 dollars steerage, 175 dollars second cabin, and 200 dollars first cabin,—not more than half-a-dozen had means to go on. The agent accordingly reduced the steerage fare to 50 dollars, and the Panama Railway offered to take the passengers across for 15 dollars. The result was, that after scenes of the most distressing kind, about 200 were sent on to San Francisco; the rest, nearly 100, returned in the *Washington* to New York.

It is impossible not to blame the company for thus taking 300 persons to a foreign port without knowing whether it had the means of completing its contract. There was every reason for expecting that the Nicaraguans would refuse a free passage through their territory to large bodies of Americans. When armed boats ascended the Colorado and San Juan rivers, the suspicions of the authorities seem to have been naturally roused, and the enterprise, which otherwise is, no doubt, feasible enough, was at once frustrated. This comes of filibustering. The Spanish Americans of all kinds know that the ambition of their northern neighbours is to "improve them off the face of the earth," and they wish to keep strangers at a distance accordingly.

But this affair of simple blundering would not be complete unless "the aggressive Britisher" were dragged into the dispute, and political capital made out of it by aspiring orators and naval officers. The Captain of the *Leopard* having good reason to suppose, like the Nicaraguans, that the *Washington* carried General Walker and his band, sent a boat on board to see if the steamer was, in fact, piratical. This was enough to rouse the ire of Flag-officer McIntosh, of the *Roanoke*, American frigate, who immediately addressed a letter to Captain Aldham, "calling him strictly to account for such an unwarrantable proceeding," and stating that, "if such visits were renewed, they would assuredly bring the vessels of the United States' home squadron and those of her Britannic Majesty on this station into collision." Mr. Zantziger, the Flag-officer's Secretary, was subsequently despatched to the British vessel, and had a long interview with Captain Aldham and Sir W. Gore Ouseley, at which he expressed himself perfectly satisfied, and Captain Aldham was politely invited to visit the *Roanoke*, together with Mr. Sygne, Sir W. Ouseley's Secretary. So the matter ended, to the gratification of all parties, and the war orators and writers are left to make the most they can of the incident. We may remark, however, that this style of communication, in which at every difficulty war is denounced, reflects no credit on American good sense, and cannot even give them any real reputation for courage.

PASSPORTS.—In October, 1853, Count de Persigny decided that a visa on a foreigner's passport should be good for a year, which is the legal duration of a French passport, but this regulation was revoked by General Espinasse's circular of the 1st of March and 8th of April, 1853, which prescribed that foreigners must have their passports visé afresh for every journey. M. Delangle has now given orders that the more liberal rule of 1853 shall be reverted to.

VIEWS OF AN AMERICAN STATESMAN.

JUDGE DOUGLAS, the senator of Illinois, a man of great prominence in American politics, and a possible candidate for the Presidency, made a speech recently in New Orleans, expressing his opinions, mainly on foreign affairs.

"In the course of his speech Mr. Douglas became so hoarse that he could scarcely speak at all. He began by making an apology for his indisposition, which he said was the result of fatigue and exposure, and was returning his thanks to the audience for their very profound attention, when some one, not regarding his weakness, shouted, 'What about Cuba?' Mr. Douglas turned to the direction whence the voice came, and after a pause, in which his voice seemed to have come back to him, he said, 'It is our destiny to have Cuba, and you can't prevent it if you try.' The applause that followed was tremendous. It was one deafening roar, which seemed as if it would raise the roof of the building, and was so long continued that it gave the senator a chance to recover still further, and get his voice in good speaking trim. When he began again he spoke of the acquisition of Cuba as a necessity of American progressiveness; but it was a question of time. The same, he said, was true of Central America and Mexico. He spoke in strong terms against the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, by which Great Britain had secured to herself an equal interest with the United States in the affairs of Central America. In the course of these remarks, he related a conversation that once took place between Mr. Bulwer and himself, at Washington, on the subject of the Central American Treaty. Mr. Bulwer said he thought the treaty a good one, because it was reciprocal; the two contracting countries had equal privileges. I agreed, said Mr. Douglas, to consider the treaty a good one, if I could have a little amendment added to it. 'What amendment?' asked Mr. Bulwer. 'Why,' said I, 'the treaty secures equal rights to Great Britain and the United States in Central America; and after 'Central America,' I would have inserted the words, 'and Asia.' 'But,' said he, 'you have no interest in Asia.' Said I, 'You have none in Central America.' 'But,' said he, again, 'you have no right in Asia.' 'Very well,' I replied, 'and wouldn't mean that Great Britain shall ever establish any right in Central America.' Mr. Douglas proceeded to argue that the situation of Cuba, Central America, &c., was such as to fix the United States as their future possessor and protector. However, he disclaimed being a filibuster; but defined his position, in strong terms, as being in favour of the acquisition of territory by the United States in whatever direction its progress and increasing population might require. When the country ceases to grow, it must begin to decline; hence the acquisition of new territory will be necessary, and must take place, all in its proper time."

THE "MONROE DOCTRINE."

This phrase frequently occurs in American political discussions, and it may be well to give our readers an explanation of its origin and meaning. When, in 1822, the revolt of the South American colonies of Spain was on the point of final success, and when the movement had led to a corresponding liberal action in Spain itself, and to a struggle between the liberal Cortes and the King, the representatives of Austria, Prussia, and Russia met at Laybach and proposed an armed intervention, with the twofold purpose of overruling Mexico, and restoring absolutism in Spain. To this proposition France assented; and the French Ambassador at Madrid took the initiative by requiring the renewed recognition of Ferdinand with full sovereign authority. Austria, Russia, and Prussia sustained the demand, in terms which left no room to doubt the extent of its bearings. The Spanish liberals indignantly resented the interference; and the four Ambassadors withdrew from the country. France assembled 100,000 soldiers at Bayonne and Perpignan, and issued an address declaring that the interference was undertaken to rescue Spain from revolution.

The position of England in relation to the affair was dubious. The English Ambassador recommended the Cortes to comply with the demand of the Allies; but the English people left no chance open for misconstruing the fact that their sympathies were with the Spanish Liberals, and also with the revolted American colonies. While affecting neutrality, therefore, as between the French army and the Spanish people, the English Government permitted the exportation of arms and ammunition to Spain; and, in return, Mexico opened her ports to English ships. Mr. Canning, who had become Secretary of Foreign Affairs under Lord Liverpool, shared the popular sympathy to a large extent; and, without committing England openly, endeavoured to aid both Spain and Mexico. With this view, he suggested to Mr. Rush, then the United States Minister at London, the expediency of the United States Government taking decided ground against any interference by the allied European Powers in the concerns of the Spanish-American Government. The suggestion was communicated by Mr. Rush to Mr. Monroe, then president at Washington; and we are thus led to the Monroe doctrine.

In his message to Congress, in 1823, Mr. Monroe alluded to the changes in the government of Spain, at the same time disclaiming any inclination on the part of the United States to meddle with European countries touching their disputes. He proceeded to remark:—"We owe it to candour to declare, that we should consider any attempt, on their part, to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere, as dangerous to our peace and safety. With existing colonies or dependencies of any European Power, we have not interfered, and shall not interfere. But with the governments who have declared their independence, and maintained it, and whose independence we have, on great consideration and just principles, acknowledged, we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them, or controlling, in any other manner, their destiny by Europeans, in any other light than the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition towards the United States." Referring still further to the interference of foreign Powers in the affairs of Spain, Mr. Monroe declared that it is impossible for the allied Powers to "extend their political system to either continent without endangering our peace and happiness; nor can one believe that our southern brethren, if left to themselves, would adopt it of their own accord. It is equally impossible, therefore, that we should behold such interposition, in any form, with indifference."

These portions of the Message occasioned surprise in both branches of Congress, but no special discussion took place upon the subject. It is known, too, that Mr. Canning was somewhat startled by the positive shape which had been given to a suggestion which was not intended to bear so formal an aspect.

Subsequent revelations have shown that, although these declarations occur in Mr. Monroe's Message, they did not proceed from his pen. Mr. Calhoun has left on record that John Quincy Adams wrote the Message, and was the author of the doctrine, so called, which has since been associated with the name of Monroe.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

The following is an extract from a despatch addressed to the Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands by Sir E. B. Lytton, Secretary of State for the Home Department:—

"You will inform the representatives of Corfu and the municipality of that island that I have received with regret the addresses which they have sent to me through you. Her Majesty's Government do not entertain the desire, as indeed they do not possess the power, to occupy Corfu and Paxos as colonies under the British Crown. Nor does it enter into the views of her Majesty's Government to appeal to the Powers of Europe for an abrogation of the treaty under which England has hitherto extended, and will extend, to the Ionian Islands a protection which is required for the interests of Europe, and which is far more effective than any that could be afforded by the sovereignty of Greece. There is, indeed, no human system free from imperfection, and under every form of government grievances requiring redress may arise. If any such grievances now exist to impede the satisfactory working of the Ionian Constitution, they need but to be temperately stated, and rationally proved, to ensure on the part of her Majesty's Government their best efforts within the circle of their constitutional powers to find a remedy or a solution for them."

"In the mission of Mr. Gladstone to the Ionian Islands there occurs an opportunity from which I trust the Ionians will not suffer themselves to be misled by visionary and impracticable schemes. It is not within Mr. Gladstone's power to consider the abrogation of the Treaty of 1815, or the cession of the Ionian Islands to any State in Europe. Her Majesty's Government cannot invest him with such powers, nor would they if they could. But it is within his powers to inform himself of existing imperfections and their causes, and to recommend such measures of improvement as may render the practical working of the Ionian Constitution more harmonious with the natural results of self-government."

"With as cordial a desire for the welfare of the Ionian Islands as any man of their own can form, I would entreat the Ionians to examine existing circumstances with the temperate judgment which belongs to practical politics, to co-operate with her Majesty's Government in the endeavour to put this favourable opportunity to good account, and to secure from the Government, which Great Britain is bound to preserve inviolate, those advantages which she is able and willing to extend."

Mr. Gladstone has paid a visit to Zante, where he was met by a considerable demonstration in favour of annexation with Greece. There was a grand fête during the day—illuminations during the night. A delegation from Zante and Ithaca, presented an address to Mr. Gladstone, making him acquainted with the desire of the people that the Islands should be joined to Greece, and to this Mr. Gladstone replied that it was a matter of treaty engagement which England could not alter; but England, he said, was willing to make liberal concessions."

THE SHARPSHOOTERS OF THE RUSSIAN IMPERIAL FAMILY AND THEIR BEARDS.

AMONG other witty, facetious, and malevolent prognostications of that eminent false prophet, Napoleon Bonaparte (who, by-the-by, never foresaw what an honour his nephew was to be to him), are several connected with England and Russia, the countries of his special detestation. The only country in Europe which possesses an aristocracy of power, and, for the most part, of worth; the only country which can boast of an army composed entirely of volunteers; the only country in which the great inventions of the century have been readily and largely tested, at enormous risk, and frequently at considerable loss, by private individuals, was sneered at by the fallen despot as "a land of shopkeepers;" his note-taking intimates being, at the same time, assured that the English people would resist an invading army of Frenchmen about as manfully as a man armed with a yard-measure would defend himself against a fully-equipped cavalry soldier. The object of the charlatan seer was simply to tempt his countrymen, at some period or other, to make a descent upon England, and avenge the "disaster" of Waterloo. He had also sworn that the retreat and pursuit from Moscow to Paris should be atoned for by the "Cossacks," as he was in the habit of calling the Russians—which, by-the-by, was about as sensible as it would be to speak of Englishmen as Welshmen, or of Frenchmen as Auvergnats.

Having shown that England might be advantageously invaded, owing to her deficiency in military ardour, it appeared necessary to point out that Russia must be attacked, because she possessed military ardour in excess—in other words, a thirst for conquest. Hence the ominous dictum about Europe becoming "Cossack" in a certain number of years, and of the danger that would result to the western nations from any national movement on the part of the Russians. "Woe to Europe, when a Czar shall wear a beard!" said the imperial Zadkiel; but it so happens that Alexander II. has already (in a metaphorical sense) a beard two inches long, while he is at the same time the only peaceful and really enlightened sovereign that the country has ever possessed. The clean-shaven oppressor, Nicholas, abhorred beards almost as much as journalists. Barber and tyrant combined, he not only forbade the beard in the army and militia (in which, however, he only followed the example of his predecessors), but would not tolerate it even in the universities. During the Nicholas régime, the alumni of the Moscow and St. Petersburg universities might or might not study, but it was essential that they should shave. However, strangely enough (we recommend the fact to the attention of all lovers of symbols), the beard of young Russia seems just now to be keeping pace with self-annihilation, liberty of the press, and the demilitarising (if we may be allowed to coin the word) of the public schools. In Russia the beard, for many reasons, is the emblem not only of nationality, but of freedom. It has never been tolerated in the Government service, though by a strange contradiction it has always been found impossible to make the moujiks shave; so that, in one particular, the only free men in the empire, since Peter the Great's time, have been the serfs. Buttons and beards were such important considerations under the old system, that at present the Moscow students are principally remarkable for going about with their uniforms unbuttoned and their faces unshaven. The Slavonians, and Panslavonians, and Slavennophiles, are also bearded, more or less, "like the pard." Aksakoff, the author of the "Family Chronicles," probably the most successful Russian work ever published, is said to be so national, that, in the country, he not only wears a beard, but even a sheepskin. Gerechtsoff, the author of the recently-published work on "Civilisation in Russia," and who proposes to hold no communication whatever with the West of Europe, except twice a year, when a vessel is to arrive at St. Petersburg laden with French, English, and German books—would also, doubtless, like to wear his beard, but that he is a senator, and, moreover, would be afraid to follow the example of Messrs. Herzen and Ogareff, the editors of the London "Kolokol." Both these gentlemen wear beards, and both are cordial and enthusiastic supporters of the present Emperor, as they are the merciless antagonists of his selfish and retrograde ministers. Let us add that the Russian ladies have lately taken to wearing the national peasant's dress, known as the "sarafan" (as to which *audi* the charming melody executed by M. Wieniawski), and the reader will probably admit the truth of our assertion, that in a metaphorical, as also in an absolute sense, Russia is beginning to grow its beard. But no one cries "woe to Europe." On the contrary, we say "woe to Russia," if anything occurs to check its natural growth.

Perhaps the reader imagines that the foregoing remarks have nothing to do with the illustration, which really has suggested to us the present article. If so, the reader is mistaken, for the "Sharpshooters of the Russian Imperial Family" form the only corps in the Russian army in which the beard is allowed to be worn, and in which the uniform, instead of being cut after some French or Prussian model, preserves a character thoroughly national. This is felt so much to be the case that at the present moment the "Imperial Sharpshooters" are considered the crack corps in the Russian army, and the young men who leave the military schools are as anxious to serve in its ranks as they were formerly to enter the Guard. The "Imperial Sharpshooters" were never heard of until some time after the commencement of the late Russian war, when it was determined to recruit a rifle regiment from among the peasants belonging to the estates of the reigning family. It was well officered, and is said to have served at Sebastopol with remarkable efficiency. The uniform is not only national but also comfortable and remarkably picturesque. It consists of a caftan of dark-green cloth fastened round the waist with a red sash. Beneath the caftan is worn the regular moujik's red shirt, of which the edge or collar is alone seen above and between the folds of the loose outer garment. The trousers, which are also very loose, are tucked into long boots of pliable black leather reaching to the knee, and the costume is completed by a Polish fur cap, somewhat in the style of those worn by the Russian workmen in the winter. The open space through which the "Imperial Sharpshooters" in our engraving are marching is the "Red Square," outside the Kremlin at Moscow. The statue on the left is that of Prince Pjarski, the liberator of Russia from the Poles, who, two centuries and a half ago, had the capital of the empire in their possession; but his friend Minin has, for some reason or other, been omitted by the artist. The Emperor, who is observing the defile of the regiment, wears their uniform, which, we may remark, he generally assumes on national and popular occasions. Thus he appeared in it one night two years ago, when, in honour of his coronation, the people to the number of fifteen thousand were invited to a ball in the Palace of the Kremlin. The Czar of Russia did not wear a beard; but he did the next thing to it—that which no Emperor had ever done since Peter the Great first assumed the title of "Imperator." He wore a caftan instead of a coat, a cap instead of a hat, his boots over his trousers instead of his trousers over his boots, and a red shirt instead of a white one. If Napoleon's famous prophecy is to be accomplished at all, it ought to be on the eve of fulfilment now. And if the long-expected Russian irruption (which is still the favourite night-mare of a few political dotards who confound Slavonians with Mongols) should ever take place—then we may be sure that the van will be led by our friends the "Sharpshooters of the Imperial Family."

H. S. E.

A STRUGGLE AGAINST DEATH.—An accident of a singular character occurred a few days ago, on the Midland Railway, in Peterborough. There is a coal wharf beside the line at the crossing, near the Crescent, where a youth named Jackson was engaged with a man in unloading a truck of coals. The man was summoned away to the gate, and Jackson, hearing a train coming, jumped down to remove a wheelbarrow which he thought might be in the way. In trundling the barrow up the line he got his right foot wedged in between the points. The train was rapidly approaching, and the poor lad called for help, making every effort to liberate his foot. His efforts and cries were in vain, and with great presence of mind he threw himself on the ground to take his body out of the way. The train rushed on, the wheels passing over and crushing his right foot. He was conveyed to the infirmary, and the foot was amputated above the ankle.

THE CROBBOE INSURRECTION.

CROBBOE is a district on the river Volta (west coast of Africa), containing almost inaccessible hill fortresses, which have often baffled the attacks of the Ashantees. Crobboe is divided into two clanships: the eastern ruled by Odonko Ossoo, the western under Olago Patoo. A few months ago, two petty chiefs of Odonko Ossoo's territory quarrelled, and blood was shed. Odonko endeavoured to restore peace, to which one of the combatants, Padie Attah, was well inclined; but the other, Tanno, allied himself to Odonko's rival, Olago Patoo, and held out. Odonko Ossoo thereupon appealed to the (English) Commandant of the Eastern districts, stationed at Accra, for support, to enable him to keep the peace and maintain his authority. His prayer was granted. The clerk of the peace was sent up to summon Tanno before the court; but he and his ally set the Government at defiance.

Major Bird, the governor, now resolved on action; almost all the neighbouring tribes promising him their support. A first step was to remove the head-quarters from Accra to Fort Christiansborg, a settlement which afforded better accommodation.

The disposable European force amounted to only about 100 men (the whole Gold Coast corps, when full, numbers only 300); and with these forces, two mountain howitzers, and two rocket tubes, the Governor, the Chief Justice (Mr. R. J. Corner), and Mr. Ross, the colonial secretary, proceeded on the 8th of September in H.M.S. *Sharpshooter* to Pram Pram, a place about twenty-five miles farther down the coast, whence the communication with Crobboe is more practicable.

It was not till the 11th that a sufficient number of carriers could be collected to enable the soldiers to march with a moderate supply of ammunition. However, at length they were got into motion, and having arrived at a plain at the foot of the Crobboe hills, they were joined by their native allies, who mustered to the number of 6,000 men. Negotiations were then opened with Olago Patoo and the other rebel chiefs, but they came to nothing, and an attack was decided on.

There are three powerful towns upon the hills; one of these is Odonko Ossoo, the others belonged to the enemy. One of these, the lowest—that situated on the slope of the hill—was first attacked. Lieutenant Gatehouse forced his way into the town, where he was very warmly received; and two of the Gold Coast corps being shot down, the natives, by whom the attack was supported (Accras), bolted, and then Lieutenant Gatehouse was obliged to retire. An attack was afterwards made by the Aquassims, supported by rockets and shell, on Olago Patoo's strongest fortress; but they were repelled by enormous stones, hurled from above. The end of this was, that this "battle of Crobboe," ended without any advantage to the expedition. Three men were killed and eight were wounded; the Accras ran away, and as for the Crobboes, our allies, they revolted early in the day; so that instead of having two-thirds of them on his side, the Governor had to contend with the whole tribe of them. Worse than all, the expedition suddenly found itself without ammunition; and therefore it was resolved to fall back and recruit.

At length fresh stores were obtained, the auxiliaries were re-assembled, and the campaign begun over again. Odonko Ossoo sent word that as soon as the force drew near enough, he would join with as many men as he could get together. The enemy, too, had betrayed some disposition to capitulate; for their plantations being occupied by our auxiliaries, they were crowded together on the hills without food. Indeed, Tanno, the captain who had caused all the mischief, soon appeared with Odonko Ossoo and surrendered himself; and Olago Patoo found it convenient to follow his example.

Then came the settlement of the difficulty, which an eye-witness, a chief actor in the business, thus describes:—

"The principal captains of each chief came in to the number of sixteen, when each laid at the Governor's feet two or three guns, in token of submission; and their immediate followers, to the number of between two or three hundred, filed past with arms reversed; they were then dismissed for the day. After the ceremony, Quaw Daddie, the King of Aquassim, and the King of the Aquamboes, favoured the Governor with a dance, each in his turn capering in his robes in a most extraordinary manner, to the sound of two immense tom-toms, and divers other detestable instruments most vigorously sounded. The scene was the more ludicrous, from the former being a tall, lanky man, of a sombre countenance, and the latter a short, fat, round-faced man with a merry eye, so that they contrasted very curiously. The King of Aquamboes was attired in a sort of velvet robe of a dirty crimson colour, which is said to be derived from human blood; and was ornamented with human jaw-bones and teeth!"

"On the day following, the trial commenced, which was a curious scene. The court-house was a shed, open at the sides, but furnished with a rude table, and was, in fact, the governor's mess-room. Here the Chief Justice presided, assisted by all the other justices present, six in number. It had been intended, as on some former occasions, to form a court, of which the king or chief of each tribe should be a member; but the tide of feeling among them was so strong against the Crobboes, that it would not have been fair to them, and would have led to endless disputes; they were, however, present, each with his large umbrella and a vast number of attendants, and crowded in as close as they could."

"The trial of Olago Patoo occupied two whole days. He was fully convicted of rebellion and levying war against her Majesty. Odonko Ossoo's lasted one day. He was convicted on two charges—of not joining the troops on the 18th of September, and not giving information to the Commandant of the intention of his people to join the enemy; and acquitted on a third charge of wilfully permitting them to do it."

"The trial of the captains occupied a fourth day. All pleaded guilty except three, who were acquitted for want of evidence against them individually. The principal chiefs, however, both asserted a principle always recognised here, that they themselves were responsible for their people; and Olago Patoo distinctly said that all the Crobboes fought against the Government, and their chiefs must answer for them. Sentence was not passed by the Court, as their lives had been promised, but it was left to the Governor to declare on what terms the royal mercy should be extended to them, and on the following day the result was declared by the Governor in person; viz., that Olago Patoo should be deposed from his stool, and his insignia delivered up to the Governor; that he and his captains should pay a sum of 35,000 heads of cowries (about £1,000) for his share in the expense of the war, of which half was imposed on himself personally, and he was to remain in custody until it was paid, and until he gave security to the satisfaction of the Governor for his future good behaviour. Odonko Ossoo was not individually fined, but held responsible for the payment of 30,000 heads of cowries by his several captains and people; Tanno, his rebellious captain, who began the whole mischief, being sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, in addition to a pretty large share of the damages."

"These sentences seemed to give pretty general satisfaction, and to be considered rather mild than otherwise. The camp now began rapidly to break up, for all were impatient to leave, particularly our allies, who were horribly disgusted to find that they were not to be allowed to rob, and plunder, and murder the Crobboes at their own discretion. According to the invariable custom here, as soon as each tribe left they burnt their camp, and volumes of smoke and flame began to be seen in all directions. Soon after the passing of the sentences, a salute was fired to announce the termination of the palaver and the re-establishment of peace."

The Gold Coast presents no very remarkable appearance. The country west of the English fortress of Accra has an undulating and woody surface; then the level country begins, containing extensive savannahs, and here and there fine pieces of wood. The shores are flat and sandy. There are no harbours along the whole line of the coast, even for vessels of a moderate size; and as the surf is very violent, the trading vessels are obliged to anchor four or five miles from the beach. This coast was formerly much resorted to by European and American vessels for slaves. At present a few vessels fetch palm-oil, gold, and ivory; they give in exchange fire-arms, iron and iron ware, tobacco, rum, Manchester cottons, and some other articles.

The whole of this coast, being near 5 deg. N. lat., is considered one of the hottest countries on the globe; yet the mean temperature is only 78 deg., and in the cold season the thermometer sometimes falls to 73 deg. or 74 deg. The great rainy season begins in March, and continues to the beginning of June. From June to the end of September is the warm season, which is the most unhealthy, especially the month of August, when the fogs are denser than at other times, and generate fevers. In October and November showers of rain are frequent. The climate is in general unhealthy, especially to Europeans on their arrival. Every person is attacked by a fever, which is called the seasoning, and many die of it, but it is stated that the administration of copious draughts of quinine has been found completely successful in checking the fever.

RAGGED SCHOOLS.

EVERY one of our great institutions was once only a thought in some one's mind. "Our glorious constitution," which we boast of, was once merely a thought—a spark which glimmered and glimmered, then enlarged, and at last got itself translated into action, small and insignificant at first, but it grew and expanded, through long years and centuries, until it has got to be what we see it now. It is true Mr. Bright says he never saw it—and with bodily eyes he never did see that wonderful entity, the British Constitution—but he must be purblind indeed if he has not seen (perceived) it with the mind's eye. Well, these Ragged Schools were once only a thought in a single individual's mind—and not very long ago. The originator of Ragged Schools was one John Pounnden, a Portsmouth shoemaker, who, while he hammered and stitched in his stall, thought as well; and his thoughts happening to run upon the ignorance of the children around him, he further thought he should like to teach them something; and at last he thought he would try. And so he did, and succeeded. His plan was very simple. He had no separate building, no funds; but, turning his stall into a school-room, he taught as he worked. It is impossible for us here to trace the growth of this acorn into the vast umbrageous oak that it has grown to be; but we are told by those who know well that that acorn was certainly first sown by John Pounnden, the Portsmouth cobbler. And if it were so, all honour to humble John! There is no monument erected to his memory, nor needs there any. In the words which are written in St. Paul's Cathedral, we may say of John Pounnden, as it is there said of the architect, "*Si monumentum queris, circumspice*."—"If you seek his monument, look around." But you will have far and wide to look; for not in England, Ireland, and Scotland only, but far over the sea, in America, Australia, and on the sea, may be found hundreds of respectable tradesmen,

artisans, servants, soldiers, sailors, &c., who, but for Ragged Schools, the outline of John Pounnden's solitary thoughts, might have been now vagabond paupers, convicts, or thieves. Reader, have you any notion of the extent and magnitude of this Ragged School work? Perhaps not; for we confess that, until we were driven to make inquiries into the subject, we had none. Of course we had heard of Ragged Schools, and knew—or rather sluggishly hoped—that they were doing good; but of the extent of their operations we knew little or nothing. But, for the information of those who are as ignorant as we were, we have to say that the "Ragged School Union" of the metropolis is a magnificent institution—one of those philanthropic societies which are the glory of our land.

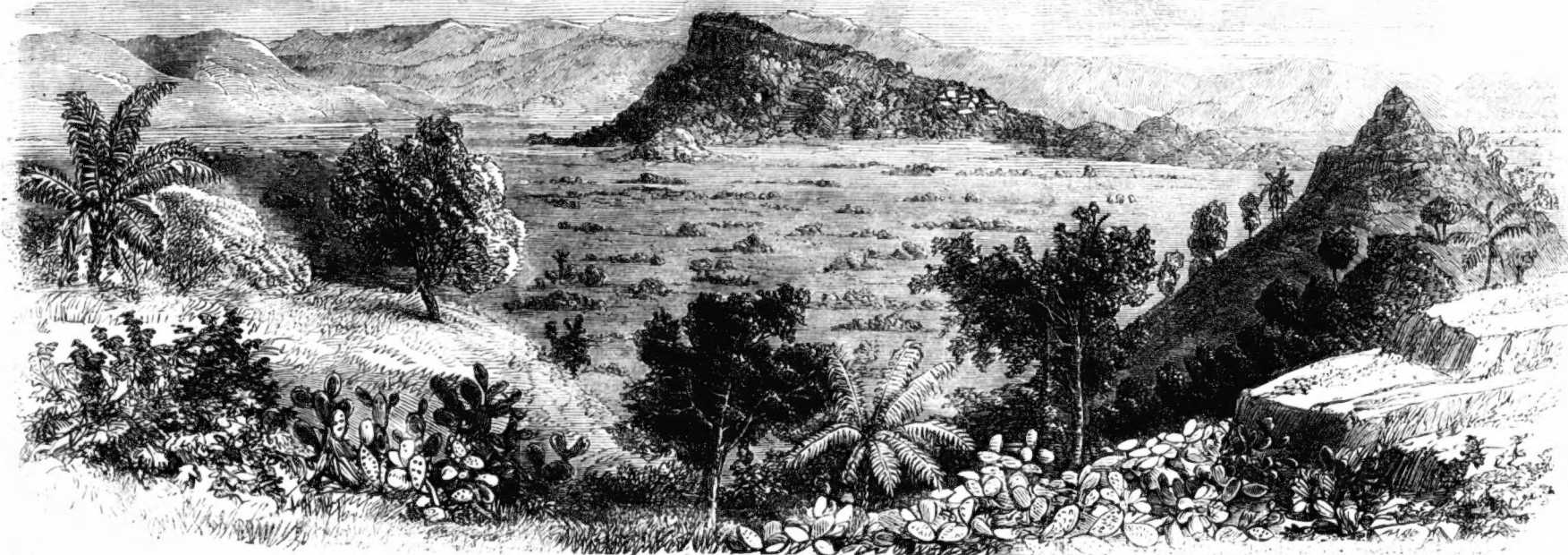
The following summary, taken from the reports of last year, will give the reader a glimpse into the extensive operations of this capital society. "By reports lately received from the various districts, they (the committee) find that there are now in union with them—137 Sunday schools, with 21,051 scholars; 110 day schools, with 14,827 scholars; 130 week evening schools, with 8,662 scholars;—making 377 schools, with 44,540 scholars. But as most of the Sunday scholars are those who attend during the week, the committee, as in former years, reckon the number of week-day and evening scholars only, i.e. 23,000, thus omitting the Sunday scholars altogether." But the result with this deduction is sufficiently remarkable; and, no doubt, will strike our readers with grateful astonishment, as it did us when we first became acquainted with it. Twenty-three thousand poor boys and girls fished out of the weltering Stygian mass of pauperism and crime, brought face to face with civilisation, and daily instructed, trained, and humanised, is an object which must touch every sensitive heart, and make it thankful that ever that thought came into the Portsmouth cobbler's mind, and that there have been found so many earnest men and women to develop that thought and realise his ideas in this grand way. The Union owes its origin, as we understand, mainly to Lord Shaftesbury, to whom we are indebted for so much in other ways; and its object is to give due direction to the philanthropy of earnest people who long to be useful, to help by grants of money schools in poor districts which could not otherwise exist, and to secure that all the schools shall be subjected to periodical inspections. But the good that the promoters of ragged schools achieve does not consist in merely instructing the children, for it seems that when once they have fished up some miserable child from the Stygian pool, they never lose their grasp until they see the said child placed well out in the world; or if they do lose hold, it is not their fault, but because he breaks away, and will not be saved; and it is really curious to mark the ingenuity which is brought to bear to secure this object. The shoeblack brigades are the offspring of ragged schools. The idea of these useful institutions first glimmered, we are told, in the minds of a Mr. McGregor and a Mr. Smith, but by what process it became a realised idea, we have not ascertained. There are now in London nine shoeblack brigades, and the sum of money earned last year by the three principal brigades—to wit, the Red, Yellow, and Blue—consisting of 190 boys, amounted to £3,227, being an average of about £17 each per annum, or above 1s. per day for each lad. We are happy to find that additional employments are contemplated—such as crossing sweepers, newspaper boys, messengers, &c. Then, again, it is calculated, that, during the last two years, nearly



THE GOLD COAST: CHRISTIANSBORG CASTLE, FROM THE SEA.



OLOGO PATOO, LATE CHIEF OF WESTERN CROBBO.



VIEW OF CROBBOE MOUNTAIN, FROM SCHAI.

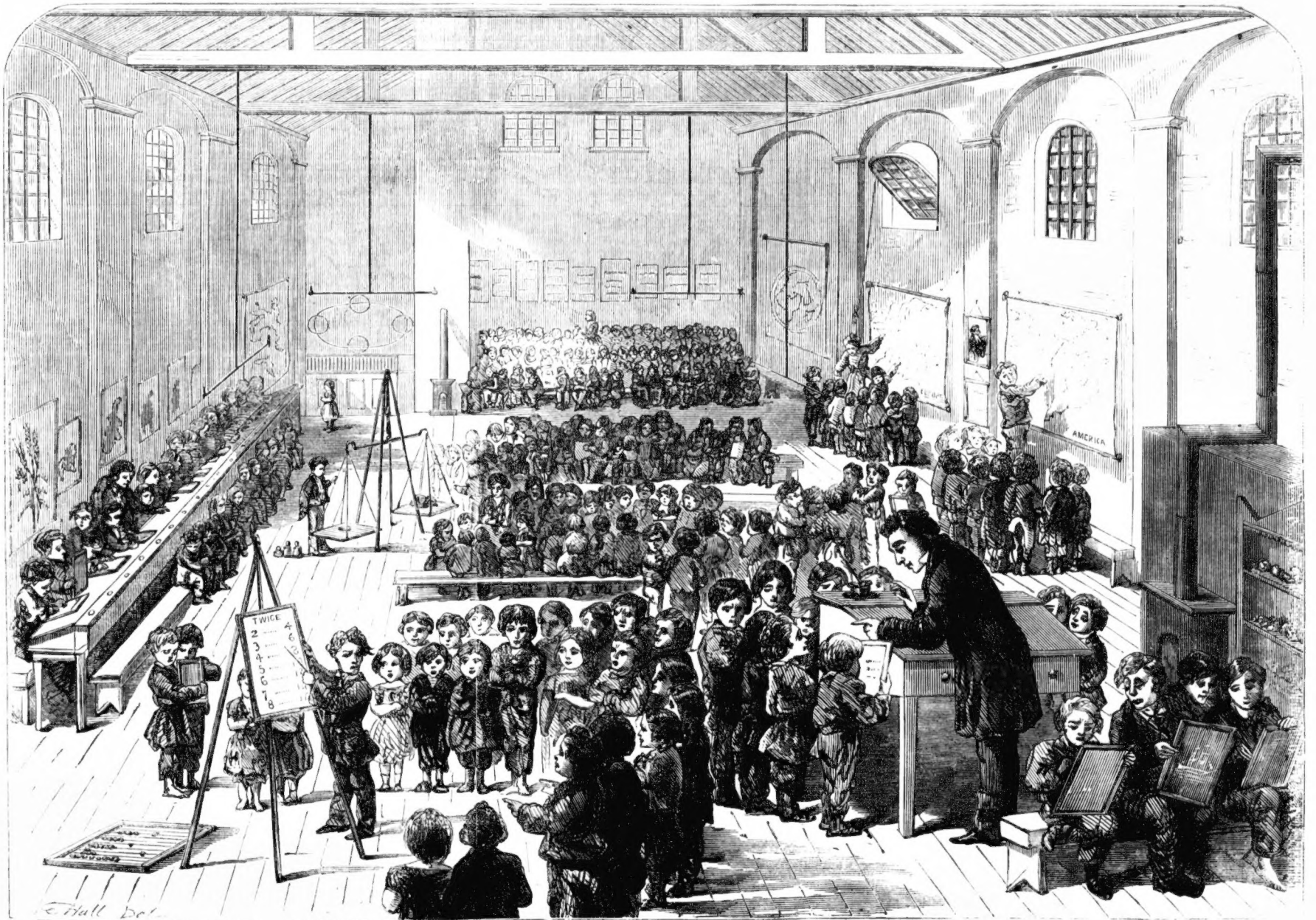


CHASSEURS OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY OF RUSSIA.—(SEE PAGE 3.)

4,000 of these ragged scholars were placed in good situations. There is also the refuge scheme, which provides refuges for the *outcast and thoroughly destitute*. Of these refuges there are fifteen, and last year the total number of inmates was 538. What is meant by the outcast

and thoroughly destitute, and what is done for them, may be understood by the following minute, selected from many of the same character:—"W. S.—Both parents dead. Lived a wandering life; sometimes in workhouses, sometimes thieving or begging; *is now*

travelling servant to a gentleman." Mark our italics, reader, we beseech you, and also the following excerpt—"By one refuge twenty-one boys (in one year) have been saved from crime, and have been started fairly in life." Some of these have entered the army, others the navy.



RAGGED SCHOOL, GEORGE YARD, ST. JUDE'S, WHITECHAPEL.

THE RESERVE AT CHATHAM AND SHERNESS.—A return has just been made of the line-of-battle steamers, and other vessels which comprise the steam reserve of Chatham and Sheerness, from which it appears that there are at present in reserve eight line-of-battle screw steamers, four floating batteries, six screw corvettes, and eighteen steam frigates and other vessels. The following is the list of the vessels attached to the steam reserve:—the *Royal George*, 102; the *Hero*, 91; the *Cressy*, 80; the *Mars*, 80; the *Cleopatra*, 80; the *Meander*, 80; the *Albatross*, 80; the *Goliath*, 80; the *Emerald*, 51; the *Bacchante*, 51; the *Amphion*, 56; the *Sylla*, 21; the *Corvus*, 21; the *Challenger*, 21; the *Cho*, 21; the *Song*, 21; the *Cossack*, 21; the *Malacca*, 17; the *Fawn*, 17; the *Ema*, 16; and the *Tiamberlet*, 16, floating batteries; the *Miranda*, 15; the *Thunder*, 11, and the *Trusty*, 11, floating batteries; the *Eurotas*, 12; the *Victor*, 6; the *Panmix*, 6; the *Dracoon*, 6; the *Draco*, 6; the *Alcedon*, 4; the *Foxhound*, 4; the *Syrge*, 4; the *Porpoise*, 3; the *Wye*, 3. The aggregate tonnage of the above vessels exceeds 100,000 tons, and the number of guns 1,113. The vessels attached to the steam reserve have just been inspected by Captain E. P. Halstead, of the *Cressy*, 80, commander of the steam reserve at Sheerness.

THE FLASER RIVER DIGGINGS.

The picture given of the miners and their ways in this new colony is exceedingly instructive, and, upon the whole, satisfactory. The great gold discoveries have now followed each other in such succession, that the practice of treasure-seeking has been refined into something like a system. Digging has become a profession, with its rules and ordinances, its precedents and customs,—rudeness still, in some respects, but based, nevertheless, for the most part upon natural justice. In California the first swarm of adventurers quarrelled with the Spaniards, and quarrelled with each other. In Australia the same quarrels are being fought out between the English and the Scotch. In the Sacramento River, diggers drop into their places and prosecute their ventures with nearly as much regularity as is seen in ordinary trades. Intoxication seems to be uncommon, and gambling discouraged. There is a general love of order, and a marked desire for a strong and effective government. All the barbarous features, in short, of this mining life are now disappearing, and diggers are as peaceable, steadily-going people in their way, as any other class of working men.

WHY IS IRELAND EXCITABLE?

A CORRESPONDENT of the "Times" answers this question by some extracts from an almanack. He says—

In the scanty library of the Irish peasant one of the most universal books is an almanack—a calendar—worn, printed, sixty-year periodical, of which the staple intelligence is the "Fairs of Ireland," being the matter of most importance to "cattle-dealers" and "cattle-breeders." At the close and commencement of each year vendors of these cheap almanacks frequent every fair, and there is probably not a hamlet or farmstead in the country which has not one or more of these little tracts, to be pulled out at the smith's fire, or read at the church-cross on Sunday, to proclaim, "pro loco populo," the fairs of the district or county for the ensuing week. Dissatisfaction and religious hate saw in these little harmless tracts a medium for disseminating their venom among the community, and, accordingly, of late years, there has been circulating through Ireland, in exactly the same wrapper and small or paper and type, a very different production from the harmless "Moore's Almanack" of a former generation. "Nugent's Moore's Almanack," with a warning to "beware of spurious editions," announces itself as "The only thoroughly Irish national almanack, printed and published in Ireland," which has given nine-tenths of the people that information for which they have so long thirsted, and the only one assailed by anti-Irish unmerciful, anti-national, and anti-philosophical attacks. At the bottom of each month's calendar, about a third of each page contains, wrapped up in the usual astrological jargon of "Taurus in the cusp of the tenth house," "Mars in square with Saturn," &c., such predictions of coming events as the following:—

18th—January.—"Atis in time to Cancer shows 'America prepared to slip the nooses, and let loose the dogs of war, while savage John Bull, salivating in the Indies, drops a pro helio toner for the approaching loss of his foreign possessions. Verily, then art a beaten beast, John; the day is at hand when the nations shall tread thee under foot, as a social, political, and illegitimate nuisance."

February.—“The retrocession of proud Jupiter in the Crab shows the failure of mighty England through her great difficulty, Ireland, after 700 years’ training of the latter by the former country.”

March,—"The doleful timbers of the Establishment are this month heard to creak with many groans. Ireland about this time has 34,000 sons in arms."

April.—"The principle-selling owners of newspapers and the black-mouthed iron-jawed owners of the soil entrap the people, who are now 'the power' in Ireland; every inducement is held out to the raw recruit to butter principle for his day's pay, and to bury his steel in the heart of some sepooy or butchered Canteen."

My.—“The great Irish impossibility of welding clay and iron together (uniting Protestantism and Catholicism as wolf and lamb) has now become manifest. The hit-or-toss English intolerant biblical statesmen must be shot in every Court in Europe. Alarming rumour prevails.”

June.—“Many of high standing will renounce the errors of the devil-dollard for the faith of Peter; Canada may make a gallant stand for her independence; Cuba and the Cape discontented; education only prepares the sons of Ireland to strike a decisive blow on their own behalf; infidelity and a domestic broil will induce the Irish settlers there to return to the mother country.”

September.—"Stupor, tyranny, ignorance, despotism now sit on the bench to administer justice to the masses; but intelligence and magnanimity shall take them by the beard—the people will hold gold in preference to paper, and be their own bankers."

November.—“Bill may be brought into the House for Liberty of Conscience to the Sovereign, as Presbyterianism has almost swamped the establishment. The bad Lord will this month make the poor tenant feel his demon power. Pat should take care of his money, as he may give it in mistake to a descendant of the blood-letting Cromwell, who has no legal right to the soil. The Irish militiaman may again soon lose his trousers, if he does not keep his firelock in order and his powder dry.”

December.—"Russia and France cast a wistful eye on London, particularly the Exchequer; Ireland now feels a buoyant spirit within her, since her great foiler has been well whipped by a stronger Power; there is now a certainty of Ireland's triumphs, after a week of centuries' torture by those in the service of the red dragon."

This book is sold with caution; an Englishman, any man of more decent appearance than ordinary, may go into the shop where he knows it to be on sale, and he will be refused a copy, or given the innocuous "Old Moore's Almanack" instead; but the peasantry are supplied to any extent.

WATER MEDICAL ACADEMY AT PLYMOUTH. For some time past an unusual number of cases of cholera have been reported from the 15th Regiment and the 2d Wisconsin Infantry, both quartered in the Citadel. On Sunday evening, August 1st, the 2d Warwick, was on duty with a picket of eight men at the fortification with four men of the 15th. Presently one of the pickets, John Lawner, was observed with his belt raised in the act of striking the sergeant, who held up one arm to defend his head, and with the other made an oblique thrust with his bayonet. The point entered under Lawner's heart and penetrated a large artery behind. He expired in three minutes. A verdict of "Manslaughter" has been returned at the inquest.

IRELAND

THE LATE ARRESTS.

The "Cork Examiner," has continued to publish a very full note of the evidence taken before the magistrates and Crown officers in the case of the parties arrested in that city on the charge of being members of an illegal society. The defendant, Mr. Daniel Sullivan, alias Gould, is described as "a smart, intelligent, and good-looking young man, of about twenty-seven years of age." He stated that he was sworn a member at a fair St. Patrick, on the 20th of August. The terms of the oath were nearly as follows:—

"I can tell it to you if you promise to keep it secret. I have promised to keep it secret."

"And, if I am a slave, I am then added to the list of those which the following say:—
"I, A. G. de la Cruz, my wife or the I will, to the utmost of my power, endeavor to support and defend thee." But, I G. de la Cruz, that I will do with only one other foreigner as well as may serve in this country with that object; and that I will do, to carry out the orders of my superiors in the society to the best of my ability."

He attended a meeting held at the Priest's Leap, on the borders of the counties of Cork and Kerry, and where members from Bantry and Kenmare met. They drilled there. The object of the society was to be ready to take up arms, as the Americans were expected before Christmas, and they would be joined by the French, and Ireland was then to be made an independent republic. Four prisoners from Bantry

William O'Shea, Denis Sullivan, Timothy McCarthy, and Jeremiah Cullenane, met two of the Kenmare brothers on one occasion, whose names were Connor and Hennessey, at the Leap, where they, six in number, drilled and marched. One of the patriots of '48, who was by the name of Shocks, was making the necessary arrangements to fire when the Americans should land. Sullivan also referred to a secret meeting held at the Priest's Leap on a Sunday, which was subsequently to another meeting held at Mexnow, in the county of Kerry, which was held at night and where there was drilling. They had refreshment at the Leap, and each person was obliged to sing a national song or make a speech. The subject of the speeches was how they would gain the independence of the country and make it a republic, when the Americans would come and the war would take place. Witness had pistols. Heard of the society called the "Phoenix Society" in Bantry. He attended three or four meetings of the society at Kenmare. The subject was about the war. Afterwards found that the society was known as the Phoenix Society. No one could be a member of it without taking oaths—one of secrecy, the other of brotherhood. He subsequently went to Skibbereen to gain the secrets of the society, and the names of the members. He was introduced as a brother of the society from Kenmare. Accompanied one of the prisoners from Skibbereen, Murty Downing, one night, about a mile from the town, where he saw a great number of men. Downing said there were 300 men there; but witness thought there were only about 100. They were all armed with pikes except a few. They were drilling. Some were fencing; but he said at length he gave information to a magistrate at Skibbereen, and then left the town. This was about the 1st of December.

On cross-examination the witness said:—"When I took the two oaths in Bantry, I cannot say whether I intended to keep them. I may have intended doing so, but when I went to the priest to confess he refused to give me absolution till I would break through them. The priest I went to is Father John O'Sullivan, P.P. of Kenmare."

The Rev. Mr. O'Halloran, of Bantry, was then sworn. His evidence was to the effect that, on the 1st of October, he was walking with Mr. Patterson and the Rev. Mr. Kingston, near Newtown Strand, when he saw four parties, named McCarthy, Cullinane, D. Sullivan, and O'Leary, firing at a target.

The inquiry closed at five o'clock, and, after a short deliberation on the part of the magistrates, the following decision was announced:—Eugene McCarthy, James Stark, and Jeremiah Driscoll, to be discharged on their own recognizances of £100 each, to come up for trial when called on; Jeremiah Cullinane, Timothy Duggan, Denis Downing, Patrick Downing, Timothy McCarthy, Thomas O'Shea, and Wm. O'Brien, to be admitted to bail, themselves in £100 each and two sureties each of £50, to appear at the assizes; and Daniel McCarthy, Denis Sullivan, Jeremiah Donovan (Russa), Murty Mayneham, William O'Shea, and Murty Downing, to be committed for trial without bail.

Who shot Mr. Nixon? Under this heading the "Dublin Nation" has the following extraordinary article:—"We have lying before us news that will startle and astonish the public—news that will confound the slanderers who for months past have danced in fiendish fury clamouring for vengeance upon the innocent people of Gweedore. Who shot Mr. Nixon? Out with the name. Will Mr. Fitzgerald, the Crown prosecutor in Donegal, give us the name of the 'purity' sworn to in the information lying at this moment in the hands of the authorities? Will the atrocious 'bloody thunders' tell us the startling story told in those informations—how the 'decent' passing along the road at Faldersburgh, a few minutes before the attempt on Mr. Nixon, passed the disguised 'women'; how he started at beholding the face of a man protruding from one of the hoods; how he recognised that in—one whom we might have believed the 'informations' sworn to name? When on the solemn oath by which Almighty God was called to witness the truth—who did that 'decent' recognise beneath the woman's guise? In the name of a fully armed red people, upon whom no man's foes have, for months past, striven to fix the brand of murder, we today demand an answer to that inquiry, upon the feelings of common humanity have been rent and trampled; when, without deposition, trial, or punishment, a gross and heinous crime has been raised against an innocent man."

prophet, alone, with that evidence or verdict, the peasantry of a whole district have been crushed under the heel of brutal power; when their homes have been pulled down their ins quenchcd—their hearts desecrated in vengeance for that deed; it is time that ye, for the wronged ones, should at length echo the cry in purity, "Who shot Mr. Nixon?" Can it be held be true that while the faithful pastors of the doomed people, with soiled lips and bleeding hearts, looked on upon the spectacle of wrath and sorrow, that Mr. Nixon may have cried in his breast a terrible knowledge of the people's innocence—a terrible belief in some one else's guilt—a pang to him, mayhap, more awful, an agonising truth aught the bullet of the assassin could have conveyed?"

ARREST OF A LADY FOR WRITING SEDITIOUS LETTERS.---On Tuesday evening, of last week, the Fethard jail was entered into "Glennel," a young lady-like, and extremely delicate girl, named Anna Walton, and had committed to jail, on charge of having written several seditious letters, one in particular calling on her Majesty's Forces "to rebel and to murder." Rumours touching her sentry freely obtained circulation; but the "Athenian Examiner" says:—"Her conduct during the preliminary investigation, previous to the committal, and her demeanour in the jail since, argue, we understand, calculated to sustain the imputation."

A Mrs. Foley, of Lisnackinnun, was abruptly informed of the arrest of some young men in Killarney, for their connection with the Phoenix Club. She happened to have a grandson at school in that town, and, imagining that he was one of the parties, the news had such an effect on her that she was attacked with apoplexy, and died immediately.

SCOTLAND.

[illegible]

THE PROVINCES.

SPIRIT-RAPPING.—A number of spirit-rappers, in Dalley and Tipton, have formed a society, which has lately deemed it necessary to convert Christian sects to their peculiar "faith." On Sunday afternoon they held a meeting at the latter place, and proceeded to have had communion with the spirit of John Wesley, who had commissioned them to preach the doctrine of John the Baptist in Dalley, promising if they obeyed the injunction to assist them; but, if they failed, threatening them with deprivation of the power of speech. Thus directed, a body of them proceeded to the Primitive Methodist Chapel, New George Street, Dudley, where the congregation about 500 persons assembled for evening service. Mr. Pugh, of Oldbury, was the preacher, and was in the midst of his discourse, when a Mrs. Stocks (a woman well known in Dalley), seated in the gallery, the appointed leader of the spirit-rappers, extending her right arm, and turning her face as in prayer, with many strange postulations, burst forth, crying, "Lord, I thank thee that thou hast permitted me to come to this congregation, and to talk to poor sinners of their souls!" About twenty other spirit-rappers simultaneously commenced similar displays of contortions and action, groaning and shouting. The minister stopped his discourse, and the harmonium of the chapel went down to the organist, who, in order to procure silence, and order, but this failed. The rappers then, one by one, and in succession, began to utter the spirit-words in the Dalley tone, which is a peculiar way. One man, an outcast, but one of his women up to the neck in a tall, and called he could not put it down. One woman, a member of the congregation, was so much alarmed that she was attacked by fainting fits, and was carried out. Meanwhile, Mrs. Stocks pleaded for the salvation of the sinners around her. So great was the tumult within, that hundreds of persons crowded into the building, and some time before the rappers could be expected and quiet restored. Mrs. Stocks has been allocated to give an explanation, and she says she and her friends did what was dictated to them, on pain of losing their speech. The church minister of the Primitive Methodist body has demanded a public apology for these unseemly proceedings. It has been refused, then the rappers will be brought before the magistrates, on the charge of disturbing the worship, under the act which renders offenders liable to a penalty of ten pounds.

SUICIDE OF A YOUTH ON HIS WEDDING-DAY.—At Kettering, a young man, named James Baxter, eighteen years of age, was afflicted with a morbid and morose disposition. Preparations had been made for the marriage, and Christmas morning fixed upon for the event. It had been arranged that another young couple, who were to occupy apartments under the same roof, should be married at the same time, and this party were at church at the appointed hour, the clergyman being in attendance. The minister, wondering at the delay, proceeded to marry those at the altar, and after the ceremony was over, sent the sexton to inquire into the cause of absence. He returned in a short time with the melancholy tidings that the young man had put an end to his life by shooting himself through the head. A fly had been engaged to take the couple to church, and was waiting at the door of the bride-church, when in her wedding dress, and wondering why her betrothed did not make his appearance, when the dreadful news was brought to her that he had died by his own hand. His body was found on the nuptial bed, which was saturated with blood. A pocket pistol was lying close to his left hand, an open prayer-book was on his pillow, and a portrait of his sweetheart was on a chair by the bed-side. The evening before, he had visited his parents, and some altercation passed between him and his father, who was opposed to the match on account of the extreme youth of the parties.

REFORM MEETINGS.—A very important meeting was held on Thursday week, at the Town Hall, Leeds. Three thousand people were present. Mr. Baines addressed the meeting. The resolutions submitted were rather vaguely expressed on the question of the suffrage. Some more decided Reformers accordingly moved an amendment that the meeting should support the rate-paying suffrage proposed by Mr. Bright, and this the meeting agreed to. On the same evening, a large meeting of non-rate-payers was held at Bolton. A resolution, demanding "household suffrage," was submitted by the promoters of the meeting, but an amendment was carried—"That this meeting recognizes manhood suffrage, and, as men, will contend for nothing less."

SHOEMAKERS AND THE OLD MACHINE GRIEVANCE.—Some of the Nottingham boot manufacturers have attempted to introduce machinery into their shops. The operative shoemakers, or a large section of them, are under the impression that the proposed improvements will diminish the number of hands employed and the amount of their wages. They have, therefore, resolved not only not to work themselves at any factory where the machinery is employed, but also to deter all other members of the craft from working for such manufacturers. It is the old story of a strike, and the old episodes of the story have not been wanting. There have been riots and mobbings—charges and convictions—loss to everybody, both master and men—want and misery, and ill-blood on every side.

SUICIDE OF A SCHOOL GIRL.—Elizabeth Butler, aged fifteen, a pupil teacher, at Trinity Schools, Derby, committed suicide by throwing herself into the river Derwent. In her copy-book was found an entry bidding her friends good-bye, and stating that she had made up her mind to do away with herself, as she had had a quarrel with Miss —, and that the latter was always talking and saying injurious things about her.

THE DUNMOW FLITCH OF BACON.—A circular has been issued, stating that it is the general wish of the committee and the inhabitants of Dunmow to postpone the ceremony till the railway is completed from London to Dunmow; but how far this will be agreeable to the candidates, who will be compelled to bottle up the rising comubial squabble till the Parliamentary battle has been fought and won, and a way of iron has been made to the ancient town, is a matter of doubt.

MURDER ON CHRISTMAS-EVE.—Bland and Edwards, both disreputable men, had some differences and often quarrelled. They met at a public-house, called the Bishop Blaze, on Christmas-eve. Some old grievance was raked up, and they went into the yard to fight. The landlord of the house prevented the fight from taking place, and Bland and Edwards returned to the tap-room, and shook hands. Soon afterwards, however, Bland made a sudden plunge with a knife at Edwards's throat, inflicting a frightful wound just beneath the chin. Bland was secured and a surgeon sent for, but on his arrival he found Edwards dead.

THE VICTORIA CROSS.

In the "Gazette" of December 24th, we find a fresh list of the new chivalry, beginning with a private seaman, ending with a subaltern of cavalry, and in the midst of it we see, "junior" together, non-commissioned officers, private soldiers, commissioned officers, of cavalry and infantry—men of the humblest birth, and those distinguished by the title "honourable." More, the honour which is bestowed by the Commander-in-Chief in India, and confirmed by the Queen, is conferred upon men who are elected for the distinction by their own peers in the army, the non-commissioned officers or the private soldiers. The recapitulation of the services in each case is a tale that would have formed a brilliant page in the noblest passages of our history, or in chivalrous romance in prose or verse. Here is an example:—

1st Madras Fusiliers.—Private J. Smith, for having been one of the first to try and enter the gateway on the north side of the Secundra Bagh. On the gateway being burst open he was one of the first to enter, and was surrounded by the enemy. He received a sword cut on the head, a bayonet wound on the left side, and a contusion in the butt-end of a musket on the right shoulder, notwithstanding which he fought his way out, and continued to perform his duties for the rest of the day. Elected by the private soldiers of the detachment.

Here is another taken from the same list: it reads like a passage from "The Cid" or "Amadis of Gaul":—

8th Regiment (now of the 7th Hussars).—Captain the Hon. Augustus Henry Archibald Anson, for conspicuous bravery at Bolnisiabad on the 25th of September, 1857. The 9th Light Dragoons had charged through the town, and were reforming in the Scrai; the enemy attempted to close the entrance by drawing their carts across it, so as to shut in the cavalry and form a cover from which to fire upon them. Captain Anson, taking a lance, dashed out of the gateway, and knocked the drivers of their carts. Coming to a wound in his left hand, received at Delhi, he could not stop his horse, and rode into the middle of the enemy, who fired a volley at him, and he fell passing through his coat. At Lucknow, he entered with the storming party on the gates being burst open. He had his horse killed, and was himself slightly wounded. He has shown the greatest gallantry on a very occasion, and has slain many enemies in fight.—Despatch from Major-General Sir James Hope Grant, K.C.B., dated August 12, 1858.

Many of the stories combined, with a most daring bravery, the most affectionate devotion to others. Take the case of Lance-Corporal Sinnott, who, at Lucknow, on the 6th of October, went out with three other men, "to rescue Lieut. Gibaut, who, in carrying out water to extinguish a fire in the bastion, had been mortally wounded, and lay outside. They brought in the body under a heavy fire. Lance-Corporal Sinnott was twice wounded. His comrades unanimously elected him for the Victoria Cross, as the most worthy. He had previously repeatedly accompanied Lieut. Gibaut when he carried out water to extinguish the fire. On the case of Sergeant W. Napier, at Azamgarh, who rescued his comrade, Private Benjamin Milnes, "run away with him at the hazard of his life, when surrounded by sepoys, bandaged his wound under fire, and then carried him in safety to the convey."

This new list of heroes contains forty-four names.

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT AT THE VICTORIA THEATRE.

The managers of this theatre—situated, as our metropolitan readers know, in the New Cut, Lambeth, and it necessary on "Boxing-day" to give two performances: in the afternoon, and again in the evening. On Monday afternoon the theatre opened at half-past two, and was well filled. The gallery audience—chiefly composed of young men and boys of the lowest class—was, as usual, the largest. All went well till about half-past four or five, when the performance was nearly concluded; but though the audience had not left the theatre, another immense crowd thronged the gallery stairs, in waiting for the evening performance. The managers had provided for the exit of the afternoon audience by another way; and as soon as they were cleared out the crowd on the gallery stairs were to be admitted, to take their places. On this flight of stairs, which are of wood and of great width, protected by a secure balustrade, there are several landing places, and two barriers were thrown across, one at the money-taker's and the other at the check-taker's box, previous to the gallery being opened, to lessen the pressure of the crowd at these points. The staircase ran up the side of a large square shaft in easy flights from the different landings.

Thus, then, was the state of things immediately preceding the calamity—an unruly rabble was packed nearly to suffocation on the stairs as far up as the money-taker's box, where a barrier impeded its further ascent, and a kindred rabble with in the building was on the point of making its exit. At that unhappy moment an escape of gas is said to have taken place on the first landing-place from the ground on the gallery stairs. That, however, of itself, appears to have caused no immediate harm to the people stationed at the point where it occurred; but then, it appears, a slight explosion was heard, and there arose instantaneously a cry of "Fire!" which was caught up from mouth to mouth. Now ensued a scene which, it may be fairly said, baffles all description. The whole mass of people on the upper portion of the stairs, in their anxiety to make their escape, precipitated themselves on the ascending crowd below, while those on the stairs leading to the first landing, unconscious of what had occurred, kept ascending. The result was, that more than a hundred people became completely wedged between the two masses. The shrieks, cries, and smothered groans that arose as the crowd swayed about or got dashed against the balustrade, or were thrown down and trodden upon, were awful. Some of those on the top flights of the stairs fairly threw themselves down on to the heads of those below, and, unable to recover their legs, fell through and were smothered in the crowd; some threw themselves over the balustrades; while others, wedged in and unable to move, held out against suffocation and broken ribs as they best could.

This terrible scene, it is said, lasted from ten minutes to a quarter of an hour, a time amply sufficient to create the dreadful loss of life we have now to record. When the crowd had been got out, and some degree of order had returned, sixteen people were found dead or dying, and others much injured and insensible. They were all found crowded together on the first landing. The police secured the passing cabs to send off those who were injured to the hospitals, and also to fetch medical assistance. The bodies were brought out from the theatre by sixes and sevens, and laid on the pavement in front of the theatre, surrounded by the crowd, who exhibited a degree of levity—now that they were themselves saved—perfectly shocking. It was not wanting even in the rough fellows who were assisting the police to remove the bodies from the staircase. Such remarks as "Here they are!"—"Here's more of 'em, tumble 'em together!"—"There's plenty more behind!"—were not the most coarse expressions uttered over the sufferers. Moreover, the entertainment at the theatre in the evening went on as if nothing uncommon had happened, and before the doors opened an immense multitude congregated at all the points of entrance, waiting for admission.

The number of persons injured by this terrible accident appears to be about thirty. We are happy to add, however, that the hurts are generally slight, to appearance, though there is still the fear that serious internal injuries must have been occasioned in such a crush. Scarcely any of the dead bodies bore the marks of wounds or contusions. Life had been destroyed in almost every case by simple congestion of the brain caused by suffocation.

Mr. Towers, the lessee of the theatre, gives another account of the accident. He says that a lad, sitting in the boxes, had some fuses in his pocket, which becoming by some means ignited, set fire to the skirts of his coat. The boy, in his alarm, cried out, "I'm on fire." That immediately caused the audience to start up in the boxes, and make a rush towards the doors to escape. "The doors at that moment were closed, with a view of preventing others from rushing in and causing confusion and greater alarm, and every possible effort was made to allay the apprehension and restore confidence. The effect was the restoration of confidence to the great majority of the audience, who returned to their seats and remained. The panic, however, spread, and extended itself to the gallery, which was partially filled—certainly not crammed, and immediately a rush was made en masse for the doors, all eagerly pressing forward to get out. The police on duty endeavoured to calm their fears, but the frightened people unfortunately pressed onward; and although obstructed by people from without pressing up the staircase to secure places for the evening's entertainment, they precipitated themselves forward, and overwhelming all obstacles, descended the staircase in confusion, and trampled upon each other. The consequence was that a number of persons were crushed by falling one upon the other. The calamity was greatly increased by the gas piping becoming disturbed by the people, in their anxious efforts to escape, coming in contact with them, and the gas consequently escaping. A slight explosion took place, and thus, causing an increased renewal of the panic, led to the unfortunate loss of life that ensued."

CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE WORKHOUSES, HOSPITALS, AND PRISONS.

AMIDST the general festivity of Christmas-day, the inmates of the metropolitan Workhouses and Unions were not forgotten. Upwards of 60,000 men, women, and children, inmates of these establishments, were furnished with a plentiful dinner of roast beef, plum-pudding, and vegetables, and an allowance of porter. In addition, the aged men had gifts of snuff and tobacco, and the women presents of snuff and tea, whilst the children were supplied with fruit and cakes. In some parishes the allowance was more than in others. The average quantity allowed to each grown person was 8 oz. of meat, 1 lb. of bread, 1 lb. of potatoes, 8 oz. of pudding, and a pint of porter; in some small sums of money being given in lieu of the presents of snuff and tobacco. In all, the guardians used every effort to give some comfort to those who had the misfortune to be the inmates of the metropolitan pauper establishments.

THE HOUSELESS POOR.—The whole of the poor persons who had been sheltered in the West London Refuge were permitted to remain in the establishment during Christmas-day, each person being furnished, in addition to the usual allowance, with a substantial Christmas meal. At the other metropolitan refuges—the Boys' Refuge in Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn; the Girls' Refuge in Broad Street, St. Giles's—substantial meals of beef and pudding were provided; as also at the Refuge for Houseless Shoebmakers in Whitechapel.

PUBLIC SOUP KITCHENS.—Several hundred poor persons were furnished with substantial meals of meat, soup, and bread, at the North London, Ham Yard, Windmill Street, Haymarket, the Spitalfields, and Shadwell; the latter being established by the benevolence of Lord Kinnaird, for the relief of the suffering coal whippers. In addition to those fed in each establishment, some hundreds of meals were taken away by poor families; more than 9,000 persons were thus provided with their Christmas meal.

PAROCHIAL AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.—The whole of the children belonging to the St. Clement's Parishes Parish Schools were regaled with a good dinner of roast beef and plum-pudding in the Vestry House, Picket Place, Strand. The children belonging to the other parishes were also similarly cared for, and those of the Ragged Schools whose funds permitted the outlay.

THE HOSPITALS.—In St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, Guy's, Westminster, Charing Cross, King's College, University, Middlesex, St. Mary's, and the London Hospitals, all the patients whose state permitted had an allowance of beef and pudding, with other little indulgences.

THE PRISONS.—By the kindness of the sheriffs the poor debtors in Whitecross Street and Queen's Bench Prisons had an extra allowance of Christmas cheer. The unhappy inmates of the criminal prisons had no allowance beyond the ordinary daily prison fare.

A CHILD'S DREAM OF A PANTOMIME.

WHAT do little children dream about? Do they dream at all? To be sure they do. They dream of those dreamily long lessons they have to repeat on the morrow, and know not by heart—some seem to them, in delusive sleep, to be the faintest made up, of syllables; but, alas! when the school time comes for them to appear before Pedagogue Tickletoe, the upstart of the school-room, the words have "skates away," and slide away. Children dream—we are sure, from old reminiscences, of the dear nurses and grown-up kinspeople who are thinking of them lovingly at home, far away, while they are smothering in their little beds at school. They dream of the play-box of delight which a letter from home has informed them is on its way to them. In the dream, the play-box actually arrives, is actually opened in the presence of a select circle of admiring playmates. What stories of "goodies," what cascades of juvenile delights, stream and tumble from that splendid casket! Plum-cakes as big as paving-stones, sacks of oranges, myriads of mince-pies, tons of tarts, hundredweights of hardbake, pasteboard tarts, iron bladed knives, boxes of water colours, gilt and illuminated story books, about London Hood, Jack and the Giants, and the Seven Champions, and stories of the famous theatrical "characters" of Mr. Park, who dwell, if we remember aright, somewhere near Smithfield Bars—does Mr. Park yet exist, we wonder?—to be afterwards coloured and tinselled. Alas and amuck! when with youthful generosity the plum-cake was about to be distributed, the horrible "getting up bell" began to clank; and perhaps by that morning's post arrived a letter from home to state that Pedagogue Tickletoe had written to Paternamias, exhorting on the liberal diet which was the rule at Labrumna House, begging that no indigestible delicacies, or playthings calculated to lead the youthful mind astray, might be sent to Master Tommy, and handsomely offering to take charges of any funds which it had been contemplated to lay out in the purchase of a mere frivolous play-box, and invest them in the acquisition of really useful objects of recreation, such as the "Young Philosopher," a micro-cop, or a juvenile cabinet of anatomy.

But a child's dream of a pantomime—what can that be like? We never ourselves had any dreams at all, that we can remember, about pantomimes. We were always too pleasantly tired and worn out on our return from one of these delightful entertainments to dream. A blissful sleep, sound and utterly unconscious, followed that supreme amusement; it was the next morning, and the day and evening after that, and the day following, and for a whole week afterwards, that we indulged in day-dreams, long and delicious, about pantomimes; that we assumed the part, and made desperate efforts to assume the costume of clown, in private life; that we expected to see a collision in the street between the baker, the butcher, the crossing-sweeper, the image-man, and the policeman; fish, legs of mutton, and busts of Shakespeare flying through the air meanwhile; that we should not have been at all surprised to see a gentleman in spangles jump through the clock-face at the public-house opposite; and that we entertained momentous doubts as to the guilt or innocence of doubling up our little baby sister, cramming her into a post-office letter box, or sitting down upon her outright. All these things were done in the pantomime, and in a pantomime there could not be anything wrong. The thing was impossible.

Mr. Alfred Crowquill, to whom the readers of the "Illustrated Times" owe the marvellous Phantasmagoria of Lancy and grotesque humour which he has denominated "A Child's Dream of a Pantomime," must surely himself have been pleasantly haunted, both in youth, adolescence, and maturity, by pantomime visions, and to a tremendous extent. It is evident that Mr. Crowquill's young friend has been more captivated by the "opening" than by the comic scenes of the pantomime. The regeries of clown and the antics of the ladies of passion have not interested him half so much as the wild barons and the tyrannical kings, the egipt, the hobgoblins with gigantic masks, the ogres, and gnomes, and sprites and elms, the demons and sprites, the captive princesses and gauzy sylphs, whom he has seen in "Harlequin King of the Castle," or "Harlequin Robin Goodfellow and the Good Genies of the Golden Groves." Dream on, thou happy little player; may the day be slow in coming when thou must have to dream of taking up a bill, and, waking, find it neatly protested on the breakfast table; when a dream may come that the fair one ye love is yours, and in the waking morning the announcement in the "Times" of that fair one's marriage sear your eyes. There are two gates to sleep, you know: the gate of ivory and the gate of horn. Glistening with elephantine tusks is Mr. Crowquill's dream of a pantomime.

PANTOMIME HEADS.

THE first three heads are from the Princess's pantomime, "Harlequin King of the Castle," and represent the Baron Weakenthelegandwartz, Hotpouverythingbrim, and Greniagroscher, a malignant elf. Then follow the Mayor of Nottingham and Friar Tuck, and a fancy portrait of English Opera, from the Dury Lane pantomime of "Robin Hood." Next come the Grandmother, the Baron, and Little Red Riding Hood, from "Harlequin Little Red Riding Hood," at Covent Garden; and are followed by Kulleborn, Hans, a fisherman, and Fibbinte, a winged fish, from "Harlequin Undine," at the Haymarket. After these come the Earl of Leicester, Queen Elizabeth, and Varney, from "Harlequin Kenilworth," at the Strand. Again followed by Johnny Gilpin, a Beau of the Time, and the Demon Farrier, from "Harlequin Johnny Gilpin," at the Adelphi. Then come Hector and Agamemnon, from the "Siege of Troy," at the Lyceum. Abdurkhan and Zamilia, which follow after, are from "Mazeppa," at the Olympic. Following these are Lord Mayor, Board of Works, and Chairman for Ditto, from "Harlequin Father Thames," at the Surrey. Commencing the next row is King Comet, and Mr. Moon, the Watchman, from "Harlequin King Comet," at the City of London; followed by Queen All-Powerful and King Knowledge Box, from "Harlequin Queen Anne's Farthing." These are succeeded by two Masks, from "Harlequin Handy-Pandy Sugar-and-Candy," at the Pavilion. Then come Isaac Walton and Tickletoe, from "Harlequin and Old Isaac Walton," at Sadler's Wells. The last two are True Blue and the Demon Zabulus, from "Harlequin True Blue and Queen Britannia," at the Victoria.

RAILWAY PROPERTY.—Nine thousand miles of railway have cost this country £215,000,000. The total annual revenue from all these railways as put by "Vindicator" at £21,200,000, of which the expenditure, including interest on bonds and guarantees, swallows up £17,750,000, leaving £3,450,000 for the ordinary shareholders. This yields on their unprotected capital of £178,000,000 an average interest of about £3 12s. per cent. Some get more than this rate, so others must get less, and many, indeed, get nothing at all. These are the first undertakers and makers of the lines, or stand in their place, and inherit their interests and rights. Many of them, even though they invested their money without any speculative intention, and had it permanently settled on their wives and children, have virtually lost a large portion, or all, by the continual decline of the interest; while hardly any, if any, derive as much interest as they would from a safe and well-conducted trade.

DISCOVERY OF COAL IN AUCKLAND. The New Zealand papers just received contain particulars of the discovery of valuable coalfields, within eighteen miles south-east of the City of Auckland, in the Opake and Hunua districts. On the discovery being made, a committee was appointed to carry out the explorations, which resulted in the opening on the land of one gentleman of a seam of coal seven feet in thickness, bearing every indication of its extending a considerable distance, and on another portion of the land the results were beyond the most sanguine expectations. The coalfields are so situated, as to permit of the transit of the coal to various parts of the colony, at an exceedingly small cost. A trial of the qualities of the coal thus discovered is announced as having taken place in the White Swan Steamship, and the engineer of the vessel in his certificate states it was perfectly satisfactory, and he has no hesitation in saying that the coal is of a superior quality, and he should feel perfectly satisfied with it for a sea steamship. These discoveries are hailed by the colonists with the greatest satisfaction, and it is supposed that a large amount of capital will be kept in the province which is now annually sent away for imported coal—that steam communication will be promoted, and that the event will be likely to prove the forerunner of other sources of wealth to the provinces, as iron and copper may be smelted in close proximity to the coal beds.



THE CHILD'S DREAM OF THE PANTOMIMES.—(11. N. S. BY ALFRED R. WALLIS.)



HEADS OF THE PANTOMIMES.—(DRAWN BY ALFRED CROWQUILL.)

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1859.

STATE OF THE POOR.

This is a subject which comes up about the same time every year, and has come in rather a worse form than usual this winter. There is something peculiarly painful in the monotony of the story. A few decent people get up Refugees, and are immediately overwhelmed by applicants in every variety of wretched plight. Then a writer becomes acquainted with the facts, and makes them known—or rather reminds the public of their existence—in a somewhat striking way. Then "subscriptions" pour in, and huge congratulations follow on the munificence of British charity and the general excellence of the present generation. The subject now drops; the money raised is slowly consumed in giving food and shelter, of a kind, to creatures more miserable far than the Esquimaux; and so we jog on again till another winter comes.

What is first to be remarked about this evil, and this way of dealing with it, is the total inadequacy of the help given. The process is like baling out a leaky boat—which fills as fast as it empties, and which you can only keep floating with an eye to reaching land. But where is the land in this case? How is the system to end? Or what will be the result when some national misfortune—the fall of a branch of commerce or an expensive war—shall at once increase poverty and diminish the means of the charitable and the resources of the Poor Law? These are questions far more important than the more noisy questions of the day, and to which there is no answer forthcoming at present.

The money-giving to these Refugees is respectable enough, and useful; but it is neither so respectable nor so useful as some people think. There is nothing easier than giving money, and it is often a lazy way of compounding for your duty in life generally. Then it is most unfortunate, that what goes to our own miseries is reduced by large amounts given away for distant and sentimental objects—the conversion of heathen and such like—which are nowhere urged as the first duties of a nation, be it observed; and which are very imperfectly performed at the best. But admitting that this last expenditure is not much over-proportionate to home expenditure of the same class (though we do not admit any man's right to give a shilling for the benefit of cannibals, &c., that is wanted at home) the question still remains, how can our destitution be permanently kept down? The alms have even a tendency to keep it up—in the absence of all other remedies—and thus we may have a voluntary Poor Law, in a few years, alongside the established Poor Law. This is a feature of the affair which few people consider. Your alms, we say—if nothing else is done—will encourage destitution—as feeding increases an ulcer. Any radical benefit can only come from the infusion of new health into the state of the poor generally; so that health shall spread from inside to out—and cure the malady, or abate it, that way. In fact, we shall have to overhaul the whole question of the people's condition; or (using again our first illustration), to examine the leak as well as bale the boat.

Unfortunately, this is a kind of task which there is no sign of any government's undertaking, for it involves a reform much more difficult to deal with than that of an imperfect representation. It touches the question of public expenditure and the taxes, including especially the point of the over-indulgence of criminals, which has a direct tendency, while adding to the burdens of the poor, to corrupt their morals. It touches again the question of emigration, the possibility of relieving the crowded masses by thinning their numbers. Of course, it touches, too, on the education question, for the destitution in a country is directly related to the condition of that country's morals—the degree of thrift, sobriety, piety, and general self-respect prevailing in it. People talk as if the destitution recently exposed was some special evil standing by itself, and capable of being met by itself. But it is rather the out come—the general expression and result of all that is bad in the state of the country. Before that gaunt swarm of dismal creatures could be produced with all its horrors, just imagine what must have existed! What swarms of families not quite destitute, but always verging on it; what hereditary crime, recklessness, drunkenness, poverty. This is the ugly part of the business. A few hundred families can be fed cheap, but it is the manufacture of such a state of things that is

the terrible phenomenon. And, that this is progressive, is shown by the fact that the destitution itself increases. Everybody who has read the recent descriptions (the annual descriptions, we may say) must have observed that the cases are more numerous and the details more sickening this time than the last. We could not have a better proof that the evil is not a temporary one, but one likely to press harder on the country every year.

While thinking it our duty to show the superficial nature of the recent steps taken to meet this evil, we do not wish to underrate them. Temporary benefit is better than none. We desire also to assist in calling attention to the administration of the Poor Law by our parishes, which is evidently harsh even beyond the harshness of the designers of the modern system. It well deserves the attention of the commissioners and the public; and it will not fail to open up again the collateral point of the equalisation of poor-rates, a question more than once discussed in these columns.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HIS MAJESTY AND THE ROYAL FAMILY spent the Christmas at Windsor, and the party was kindly and very quiet.

THE SHARPS have just received from a lady, who has been for some time in the hospital, a donation of £5,000 for the improvement of the hospital.

A BOY containing the body of an infant, whose legs were broken, and who had been found in the docks at Belvedere.

AN ALLEY between GARDENERS and POACHERS occurred on Friday night last, at Kew Park, near Abinger; one of the keepers was shot in various places, but not seriously; the poachers escaped.

A LADY named Mrs. P. was showing the public the various curiosities which she had collected, when she expired, and struck him in the mouth, and died.

MR. CHARLES LEVER, the novelist, has been appointed British Consul at Sierra Leone.

THE PROMOTERS of the Isthmus of Suez Scheme intend to bring out a monthly paper, to be called "L'Estime de Suez, Journal de l'Union des Deux Mers."

A HORSE at Auden, France, recently fell in, and about nine persons were killed.

THE FOUNDATION of the foundation of the Commercial Monday night, at the London Tavern.

AN AMATEUR DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE will be given on January 11, in the theatre at Camden House, Kensington, by distinguished ladies and gentlemen amateurs; the proceeds to be devoted to the prize fund of the Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts.

THE DEATH of the YOUNGEST DAUGHTER of ORSINI is announced. She was of frail constitution, and it was thought that she would scarcely be able to survive the fatigue of her journey to Paris with her mother and mother to bid farewell to her father.

THE DUKE OF CHARLES has passed his examinations at the Military School of Turin in a distinguished manner, and has been classed among the firsts of the third year.

THE ROYAL COMMISSIONERS FOR MANNING THE NAVY have terminated their labours for this year, and adjourned until the 11th of January, 1859. It is believed that they have exhausted their programme of examinations, and their report will be laid on the table of the House at an early period.

THE CHRISTMAS SESSIONAL EXAMINATION of the ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, at Cirencester, took place on the 16th ult. The examination included practical agriculture, chemistry, the veterinary art, natural history, surveying, and engineering. Amongst the prizes awarded was one to Mr. Bramston, a son of the member for South Essex.

A LETTER from the AMERICAN PRESS, out of every 5,000 letters passing between the United States and Saitz land, 1,800 have been conveyed in British packets.

A GIRL was killed in a STREET at NOTTINGHAM, last week, by the fall of a ladder.

THE COUNCIL OF INDIA have resolved not to grant any more guarantees on Indian undertakings for some time to come.

PROFESSOR MAX MÜLLER, Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, has been elected a Corresponding Member of the Institute of France.

THE POLICE on Monday morning exhibited a smaller number of "drunk and disorderly" than has ever been known for several boxing-days past; there were not more than 50 charges, whereas the average number has been from 90 to 100.

A DEMENTED OF HER MAJESTY, cast of Russian gun-metal in the foundries of Woolwich, has been erected in the vacant space formerly occupied by the public clock, in the eastern ornamental archway of the Royal Artillery Barracks.

SOME OF THE FRENCH POLITICAL PRISONERS transported to Algeria after the coup d'état have asked for a remission of their sentence, and are permitted to return to France on the occasion of the new year.

A LAND SLIP of 30,000 cubic metres has completely buried the Luxembourg line of railway at a point between Grupon and Arlon. It will take a month's labour to clear the road.

THE MADRID PAPERS announce the debut of M. Giurini at the Theatre Re in "La Favorita," and describe his success as something quite unparalleled in that city. The representation was attended by their Majesties and the Court.

A SERVANT GIRL, in service at Nottingham, was detected, the other night, picking potatoes with a knife, and inserting some kind of sheepwash in them, with the intention, it alleged, of poisoning the family.

A NUMBER of KOSUTH NOTES, dating from the revolution, were burned a few days since in the Place d'Armes, at Temesvár (Hungary) in presence of the authorities and of the commandant of the troops. These notes are burned from time to time in the eastern provinces of the empire, as soon as a certain number of them have been accumulated.

MR. AND MRS. HAMLING, trade people of Torquay, took possession of a house on Monday night, on their retirement from business. During the night a very high wall at the back fell over their house and buried them; they were taken out dead.

A RAILWAY VAN, laden with miscellaneous goods, was proceeding through Oxford Street, last week, when it suddenly burst into flames, caused, it is supposed, by spontaneous combustion. A considerable quantity of goods was destroyed.

GRAND PREPARATIONS have been made in St. George's Hall, Windsor, for the performance of Costa's "Eli." Upwards of 250 professionals, including her Majesty's private band, were engaged. This grand performance was to have taken place on New Year's-eve (yesterday).

THE INCUMBENT of a populous district in Bristol, announced to his congregation, on Sunday morning last, that upon a further consideration of the prophecies of Daniel, he had arrived at the conclusion that the world would shortly come to an end.

THE DEATH of M. RIGAUD, one of the political writers in the Parisian "Deutsches," is announced. He was suddenly seized with indisposition from excess of literary labour.

MR. BUCHANAN, M.P. for Glasgow, has accepted the office of President of the Scottish Association for the Relief of the Paper Duty, and Mr. W. Chambers is the chairman of the committee.

THE BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS, for the month and eleven months ending with the 30th of November last, have been issued. They exhibit a considerable improvement in our exports as compared with the corresponding month of last year. In other respects also they are more satisfactory.

THE SETTLEMENT of BRITISH KAFFIRIA, by the Anglo-German Legion, is pronounced by the "Cape Town Mail" to be a failure. The scheme now in progress for substituting colonial farmers is more promising.

MAJOR G. C. MORGAN, son of Sir Charles Morgan, Bart., of Tredegar Park, has been returned without opposition for Breconshire, in place of the late Sir John Baskley, Bart.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN S. PARKINGTON, BART., M.P., is to preside at the ensuing Anniversary Festival of the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, which is arranged to take place at the London Tavern in March next.

M. RAIND, Attorney-General, of the Civil Tribunal of Genoa, stilted his wife in bed out of jealousy, and then took to flight. He was seen with the bloody penknife in his hand by his own daughter, aged fourteen, who, sleeping in the next room, had been awakened by her mother's cries. The latter died a few minutes afterwards, so that the daughter is the only witness against her father.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

THE CHRISTMAS AMUSEMENTS.

The last week's number of the theatrical organ, the "Era," contains accounts of no less than sixteen regular theatres, independently of entertainments and exhibitions! Sixteen theatres in our metropolis, all, I firmly believe, doing well, and providing employment and the means of living for innumerable hard-working persons! This is a very satisfactory thing for the theatrical profession, for philanthropists generally, and for everybody excepting those who smell brimstone in footlights, and see Gehenna through sinking traps, and for those unfortunate gentlemen whose duty it is to witness the various performances. It is not to be supposed that in the interval between Monday and the date of writing, I have personally attended each place of public entertainment, but I have made myself as ubiquitous as possible, and for the rest of my information have relied on several trusty friends, who have kindly helped me in this time of need, and given me the result of their experience. I am thus enabled to offer my annual synopsis of the Christmas amusements.

DRURY LANE shall have the preference. Choke-full in every nook and corner; hot, dusty, steaming; mob victorious, yelling and cat-calling; swells in stalls crushed as their Gibus-hats; committee in committee-box, helpless as their intellect; mob victorious, and insolent in its triumph! Mob won't listen to Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams; won't have Irish boys and Yankee girls; wants English pantomime! Encores the jig, but won't listen to dialogue; Mr. and Mrs. B. W. prudently condense their attractions. Mob refreshes itself with porter and chaff, but lulls when the first note of Mr. Tully's overture rings through the house. Capital pantomime music, Mr. Tully! Exactly what it should be! Not in the least classical, but comic and catching; plenty of "tol-lol," in fact, but very little "tra-la!" Mob enthusiastically applauds overture, and up goes curtain! The pantomime is as usual from the pen of the best pantomime writer in the world.

MR. E. L. BLANCHARD, comprising crisp dialogue and happy parodies, with much practical fun, the result of long pantomimical experience. It is called "Robin Hood; or, Harlequin Friar Tuck and the Merry Men of Sherwood Forest," but the first scene acts as an introduction, being laid in the "Halls of Harmony," where Music is attended by her sprites, Italian Opera, English Opera, and Canterbury Hall. She is visited by the Year 1858, who requests her to suggest the subject of a pantomime, which he is to leave to his successor 1859; and she agreeing, furnishes him with the old ballad story of Robin Hood. The real opening then begins with a scene called "The Arcadian Haunt of the Forest Fairies," one of the most poetic, picturesque, and artistic triumphs of William Beverley's brush. Mob, restrained up to this point, breaks out into irrepressible enthusiasm, and howls for Beverley! Stalls knock their knobby palms gently together, and committee look smilingly round, feeling evidently that it is a side-wind compliment to them! Mr. Beverley comes forward and bows, so does Mr. E. T. Smith, stout and radiant, somewhat hot, too, and looking as though he had had an exciting time lately, which one can understand! Thence, after a ballet, we go to the sylvan shades of Sherwood Forest, where we find Robin Hood, Friar Tuck, and the rest of the band; then see them in Nottingham market-place, watch their fight with the sheriff, and find them only rescued from legal authority by fairy interposition. The transformation scene is as beautiful as that already noticed, and Mr. Beverley was again summoned on the stage. In the comic business, Mr. Boleno is clown, Mr. Milano harlequin, Madame Boleno columbine, and Mr. Tanner pantaloone, while the "Delavanta family" supply a second series of pantomimists. I don't think Mr. Boleno funny, but the audience do, and applauded all the tricks and jokes with the greatest heartiness.

The management of COVENT GARDEN have been in the greatest luck; for not only have they engaged the combined talent of two very excellent authors,—Messrs. Sutherland Edwards and J. V. Bridgeman—but they have secured the services of that king of all pantomimists, Mr. W. H. Payne! Never was there a man possessed of such grotesque humour! "Ah me! *Consue Plauco*—which, being interpreted, means when Madame Vestris had Covent Garden—what absurdities do I not recollect committed by this said Payne, in Great Beds of Ware, as Earls of Warwick and Leicester, and in many other ridiculous phrases, the titles of which I cannot now recall! However, here he is again, as absurd in invention, as lithe in backbone, as generally preposterous and ridiculous in behaviour, as ever! "Little Red Riding Hood" is the title of the pantomime; and here, also, the first scene is introductory, being a wrangle between Italian Opera, typified by Norma (Miss Hanoe), English Opera, represented by Miss Pyne, as the "Rose of Castile" (Miss Harris), and the Spirit of Pantomime, as to who has really the greatest right on the Covent Garden stage. The story of Red Riding Hood is decided on, and the pantomime begins. There is a baron—an awfully bad baron (Mr. W. H. Payne), who has had the gift of rejuvenescence bestowed upon him by the fairy Wealthiana, coupled with the unpleasant condition of being compelled to change into a wolf every evening after six! Quite the life of a superman in a pantomime! The baron falls in love with Red Riding Hood, and proffers gold; but the girl, though poor, is virtuous, and just as his attentions are proving unpleasant, she is relieved from them by the clock striking six, and by his transformation into his bestial condition. As the Wolf, he destroys Red Riding Hood's grandmother, and is only prevented from wreaking his vengeance on the girl herself by the inevitable "change." The dialogue is very smartly written, and the opening was generally well played. The comic part I did not stay to witness, but I hear it is good. I don't like Mr. Flexmore as a clown; he is too clever, and not half funny enough. The one "trip" which I did see was very neatly danced by the Harlequin (Mr. H. Payne) and the Columbine (Miss Clara Morgan).

MR. ALFRED FORRESTER (Crowquill) contributes the Christmas gaiety to the PRINCESS'S, "The King of the Castle; or, Harlequin Prince Diamond and the Princess Brighteyes." The good friend who, in my interest, visited Mr. Kean's establishment on boxing-night, tells me that laughter rang perpetually through the house, that everybody applauded and everybody seemed pleased, save—himself! He is of a cynical turn, declares Mr. Crowquill's verse doggerel, and his plot incomplete, unthreaded stuff; but he gives all manner of *kudos* to Mr. Grieve for his scenery (notably for "The Palace of Jewels"), to the mechanist, the leader of the band, and the property man! He was also much pleased with the grace of Mr. Cormack as harlequin, the agility of Mr. Hulme as clown, and he raves and beats his breast when he thinks of the ravishing beauty of Miss Caroline Adams, the columbine!

The gentleman who did me the kindness to attend the HAYMARKET for me, has come back in a curious frame of mind. He is of a poetical temperament; and the subject of the opening of the pantomime, "Undine," has been so gracefully and poetically treated by author, artist, and actors, that he was lost in a dream of delight, and perfectly disgusted when the change took place, and vulgar pantomime began! Miss Louise Leclercq, he declares, is the very embodiment of Fouquet's creation, Mr. Fenton's scenery of sea-weed grottoes and echoing caverns was perfection, the music was admirably arranged, and all was in accordance with the spirit of the romance, when—half a dozen buffoons, air, come tumbling on the stage, and all poetry vanishes at once! In his calmer moments, he has, however, admitted that the harlequinade was excellent, that the two Leclercqs, as harlequin and clown, worked admirably, and that the pantaloone (*Herr Cole*)—my friend is doubtful of his Teutonic extraction—was a model of feebleness, and that the columbine, Miss Fanny Wright, was very graceful.

The burlesque at the LYCEUM has been written by Mr. Robert Brough, the prince of modern burlesque writers, and is founded on the "Siege of Troy." I do not think that any one can point out such a true and thorough specimen of the "comic writer" as Mr. Brough. He is a graceful poet, a smart essayist, and a generally-available journalist; but comic writing is his *métier*, puns and parodies are his province; and ludicrous distortion his *point d'appui*! But this year he would appear to have made a mistake, to have chosen a subject of too weighty a calibre, and to be scarcely up to a standard which he has marked as

The improvement in front of the lights is only correlative to the improvement behind. The stage is spacious, but not an inch of room is wasted. Both in lateral width and in loftiness the amplest room is taken for scenic effect, and the machinery behind will assist in rendering the illusion as perfect as possible. Some of the minor improvements will exemplify the tendency of the whole. The flaps which are thrown up when certain portions of the scenery are raised from below are here abolished; for every part of the stage is "practicable,"—can be removed at pleasure, even to the whole, if necessary, without traps or flaps. Thus the flooring can be made to correspond exactly to the exigencies of the scenery, and depth as well as height and breadth can be given to the scene. As a whole, the theatre stands next to Covent Garden and Drury Lane for space. The proscenium itself is 38 feet high by 35 feet wide—several feet larger each way than the proscenium of either the Lyceum, Olympic, or Princess's. The whole theatre has seats for 1,500 persons, but this estimate allows such ample accommodation for each that one may fairly say the new building will accommodate 2,000 with far greater comfort to themselves than ever the old one did one-half of that number. The mode of lighting is simple, but brilliant in the extreme, the whole building being illuminated from the ceiling with one of Stroud's patent sun-lights. The light itself is concealed, though its effect is increased by an exquisitely



McKEE'S PUBLIC HOUSE, BELFAST, THE SCENE OF THE RECENT ARRESTS OF MEMBERS OF THE PHOENIX SOCIETY.
(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY DR. CURRY.)

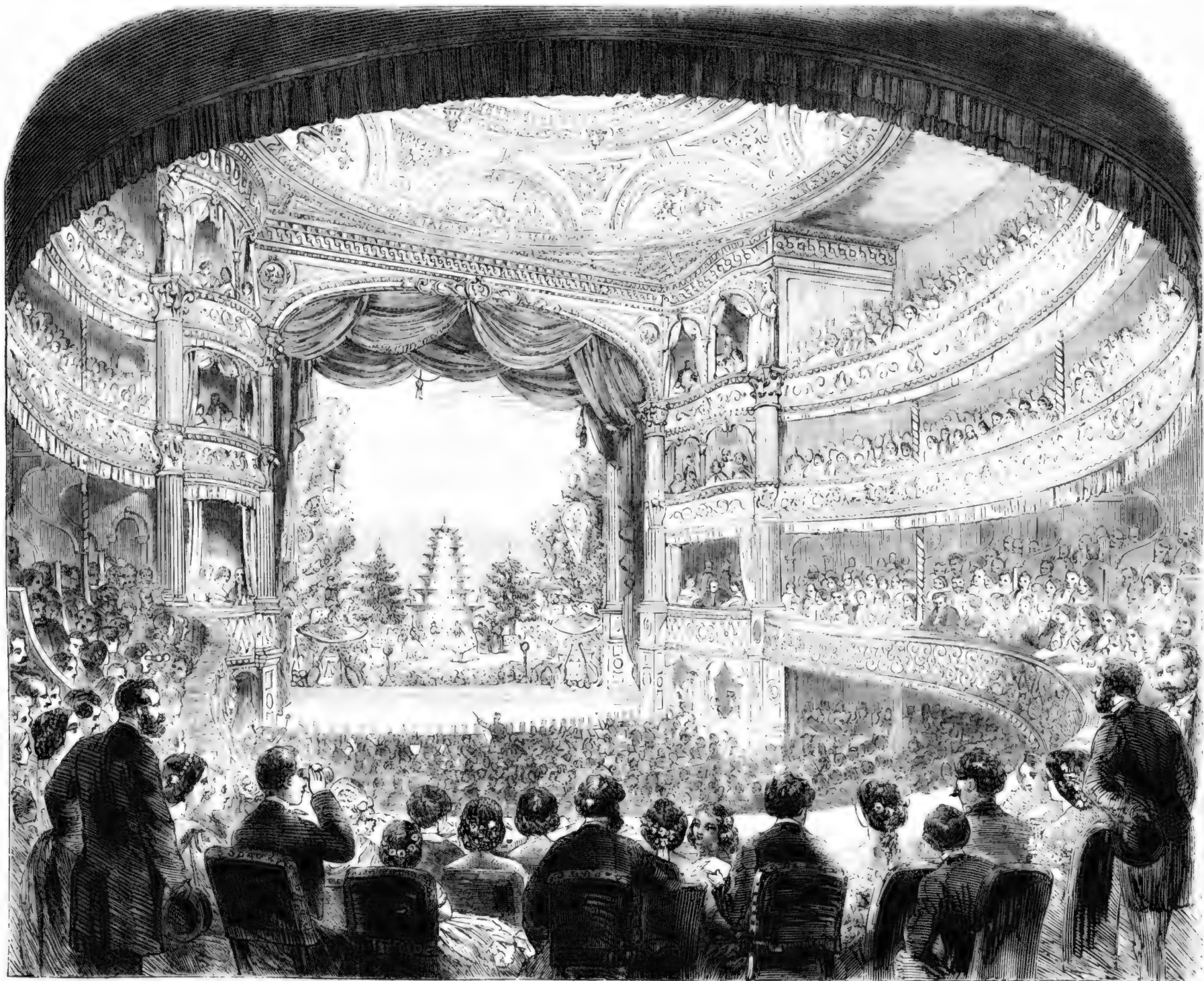
formed chandelier—a glittering mass of cut-glass coronets, prismatic feathers, lustres, and spangles.

The new theatre has another advantage: the visitor does not simply purchase his right of admission; as in the case of the Russian theatre, he rather purchases his *seat*, and he is the tenant of it for the night. Excepting the back part of the pit and gallery, the place may be taken for the whole evening: so that as soon as the admission money is paid, whether in the early part of the day or the evening, the theatre-goer has secured his seat for the night without any ulterior trouble, without any chance of having it taken from him, and without any extra fee. There is no half-price.

Nor is the audience barely admitted and allowed space for existence; on the contrary, personal convenience is consulted in every detail and every accessory. In the first place, space enough is secured for each case; the width of the seats in the orchestra-stalls, for example, is two feet, an ample allowance even for crinoline, permitting change of posture at the desire of the sitter. The passages which give admission to the various parts of the house are spacious, simple in their construction, and easy of access.

At most theatres, the refreshments are either of a very inferior kind, repulsive in their look, and poisonous in their tendencies; or they are doled out at enormous prices. The department has hitherto, in fact, been "farmed" by outsiders, whose object has been to extort the largest return for the outlay, and whose interest has not at all been identified with the welfare of the house. Mr. Webster has settled difficulties by taking this department in his own hand; he has secured refreshments by those purveyors who have a character at stake, and who will supply viands of the best quality. Drinks, for example, will come from Sainsbury's—whose lemonade is made of lemons. In some theatres the arrangements for taking charge of the *cloaks* combine mortification with extortion. Ladies of families which are too homely to keep their carriages, and are not ambitious to pass through London in full-dress, are compelled to stand in the outer hall in order that they may be allowed to deposit cloaks and bonnets in a corner under a staircase and submit to the galling extortion of the attendants: in the new theatre this abuse is abolished. Cloak-rooms are provided in which ladies will find every facility for the toilet; and since fees are abolished throughout the building, there will be none of that extortion which is so repulsive to the female mind. Manager, even of the most beggarly theatres appear heretofore to have framed their regulations on the pretence that they were catering only for "the aristocracy;" and if middle-class visitants came, they were to be brought to obey the rules and to pay the fees, under pain of mortification. Mr. Webster sees that theatres must draw the great average of their revenue from the middle-class, and his regulations have, for the first time perhaps, placed the middle-class within the theatre on a footing of complete equality with the highest and wealthiest in the land.

No fear of fire, such as that which must haunt the splendid wood-lined theatre of Moscow—the phoenix successor of another splendid building—will harass the mind of the most timid in the Adelphi: the whole is fire-proof, and should any hanging or crinoline occasion the most passing alarm of fire, additional doors at the sides fly open at the touch of a spring, and the audience can disperse "in a trice." About another new feature in the new theatre we have some doubt: all the check-takers and box-openers are females.



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FASHIONS FOR JANUARY: EVENING DRESSES.

PARIS FASHIONS FOR JANUARY.

Tulle and lace are the materials chiefly employed for ball dresses. The richest ball dresses are entirely of lace, others have lace flounces, and front or side trimmings *à la Watteau* made of lace tastefully intermingled with garnitures of ribbons or flowers.

At the present time the choice of evening *coiffure* is an engrossing subject in the thoughts of every lady who is destined to take any share in the festivities of the season. We may offer a description of a few which have just issued from the *atelier* of a distinguished Parisian milliner.

One is composed of a net formed of narrow blue velvet ribbon and gold cord. On the left side there are three peones, and on the right side a bud, partially veiled beneath coques of white tulle. At the back of the head is a sort of *chignon* composed of coques of tulle, whence descend long lappets of the same.

Another head-dress consists of a double torsade of green velvet ar-

anged in the style of a coronet. At the back of the head, a *chignon* of roses is shaded by coques of tulle figured with small pearls.

A new wreath has been introduced under the name of *Turban des Zouaves*, certainly a very warlike name for designating a most graceful and feminine head-dress. This wreath is formed of tea roses, with foliage of green satin delicately shaded and frosted. At the back, long sprays formed of buds and foliage flow over the shoulders. The *Turban des Zouaves* is also made of pink and white veronica.

There is no particular novelty in bonnets. Many are made of plain black velvet, with folds of coloured velvet. Others have the crown plaited at the back *en gerbe*. We may note a curious fashion which has recently obtained favour in Paris, viz., that of introducing humming-birds (either stuffed or artificial) in the trimming of bonnets. The bird of Paradise has enjoyed many years of fashionable favour; the humming-bird may fairly have its turn.

Among the many beautiful objects prepared for the *etrennes* of the

new year in Paris, are some pocket-handkerchiefs, exhibiting exquisite specimens of embroidery. In the corners, the most complicated coats-of-arms are traced with the needle; the various colours being as accurately and delicately blended as though they were the work of a skilful pencil. A border of costly lace finishes these beautiful handkerchiefs. Others of a more simple kind have merely the initials of the owner wrought in one corner, and are bordered with arabesques, or with wreaths of flowers in natural colours. Handkerchiefs of this plainer kind are usually trimmed with Valenciennes or Mechlin lace.

The ornamental pins employed for fixing caps and head-dresses are of the most elegant description. Those worn in full evening-dress are frequently very splendid, being composed of gold, pearls, and precious stones. Many of these elegant ornaments are accurately copied from Turkish and Persian models.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

Figure 1.—Dress of China blue silk, with side trimmings formed of



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